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PREVIEW
ISSUE

SPECIAL: FOOTBALL STAT SECTION

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126,979 Miles
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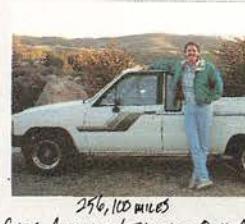
124,175 Miles
John Hollingsworth/Birmingham, AL



142,688 Miles
STEVEN STEPANIAN/HERRIMAN, MA



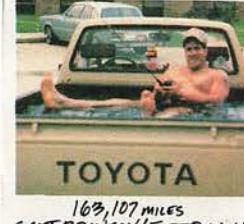
236,119 Miles
Jeffrey Baccari/El Cajon, CA



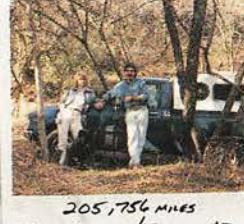
256,100 Miles
CHRIS LOVETT/THOUSAND OAKS, CA



146,670 Miles
GREGORY BURKHART/LITTLETON, CO



163,107 Miles
SCOTT BROWSON/FORT POLK, LA



205,756 Miles
JOHN GENTILE/TUCSON, AZ



131,800 Miles
GARY TANNER/CONCORD, VA



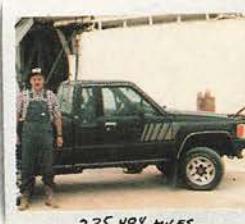
152,010 Miles
RON FRANCHI/WILMINGTON, CA



206,457 Miles
ALICE JUDAH/BEALETON, VA



238,794 Miles
MARK GARNER/FERRELL, PA



275,488 Miles
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THE TEAM CONCEPT TEAMWORK IS A MISUNDERSTOOD TERM BY CAM BENTY

Most often used in the business-world context as a reprimand for independent thinking, not being a "team player" generally comes into play when either something doesn't work out, or someone forgot to ask permission. I've personally been on the receiving end of both results and it's a bad place to be. I'm sure this style of usage is commonplace in player-manager clubhouse discussions, where the player's focus seems to rest more on individual stats and personal contracts than actual teamwork. (I probably wouldn't have minded the reprimands so much if I was getting baseball-sized bucks). It's a common belief that the winner of the World Series is not the team that has the best players, but rather the team that pulls for the common good...teamwork. Certainly the California Angels have offered recurring examples of the former, while the 1988 L.A. Dodgers are one of the best examples of the latter.

Here at SPORT Magazine, we plan to emulate that teamwork ethic. This month's issue marks some subtle and not-so-subtle changes in the format and tone of the magazine, starting with the addition of this staff-driven editorial. Each month, staff members and I will rotate in for this space, dependent on who has the most "sport-shaking," important commentary. I hope you will write with counterviews to our opinions, which we will run in the SPORT Mail section.

An important addition to the SPORT Magazine team is Scott Ostler, who will be turning out a monthly column. Scott's background is quite varied, but most sports enthusiasts will remember him from *The National*, where his wit and unique perspective were so evident. We believe he brings us a fresh voice.

But the most important focus of our editorial teamwork will be on sto-

ry content. Controversial point-of-view angles and stories with substance have always been key to the success of this magazine. Not only will we continue to applaud true talent in superstar bios, but we'll further widen our perspective to cover problems in the sporting world, analyzing failures and their causes, as well as speculating on the future of sports, sometimes seriously, sometimes not. Illustrating the new view at SPORT is Rick Weinberg's article on Matt Williams, running in this issue. While Rick's original concept was to base a story on the talents of the San Francisco slugger, constant review of Williams' batting average as he fought through a tough slump altered the sto-

ry's perspective drastically. What started out to be an "ain't he great" plot line ended up as a story on the trials and tribulations that even a marvelously gifted ball player occasionally endures.

As you may have noticed, this month marks our Football '92 Preview edition, wherein we hope to stun you with our picks for the top pro and college teams in the country. As opposed to the dart-board method some of you may believe we use to make our selections, it was a team of pros that made Kansas City, Philadelphia and Alabama our top picks. If we added drinking glasses and gasoline to the package, we'd be a service station! We've done our bit to help you get the new football season off to a good start; it's up to you to provide your favorite beverage and snack treats.

So stop fanning through this magazine, and drop it in your shopping cart or tuck it under your arm, and head for the cash register. This issue marks the start of something big! An autographed editorial from the new Editor of Sport for the low, low price of \$2.95. What a deal!★



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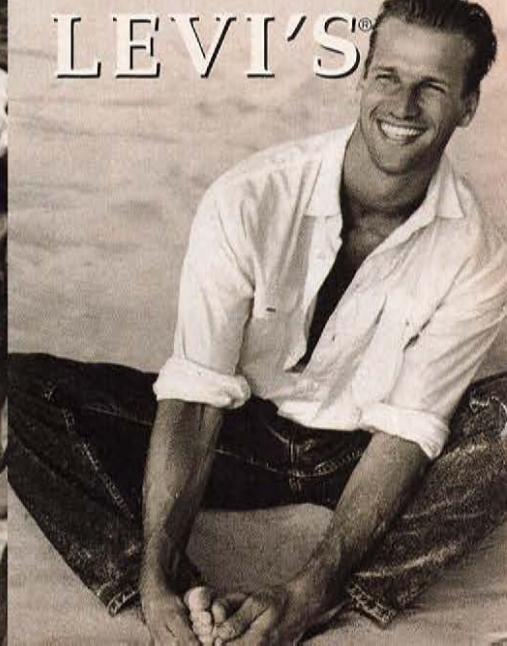
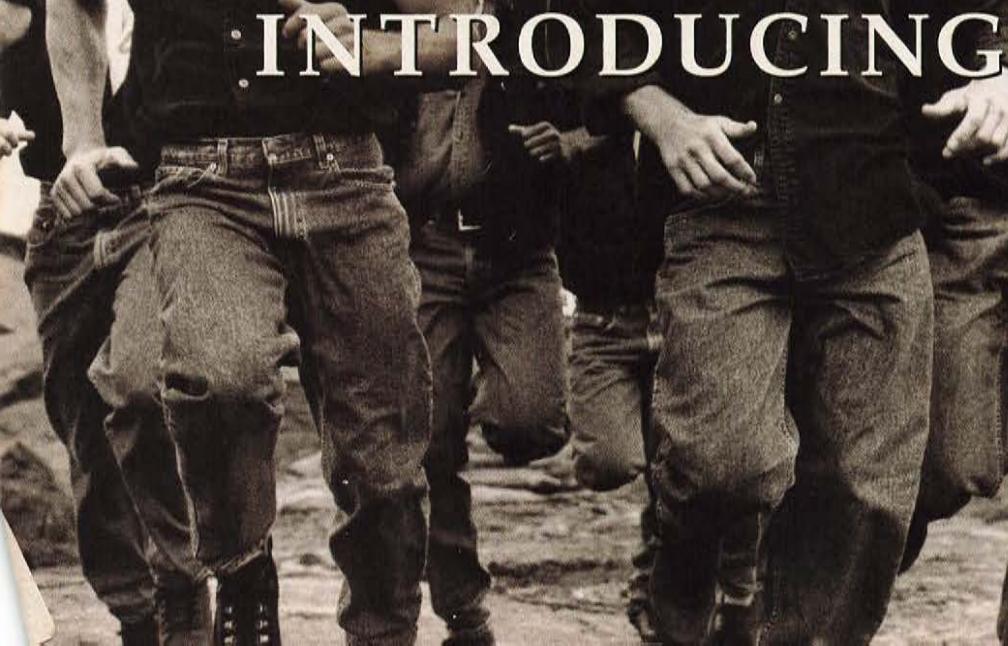
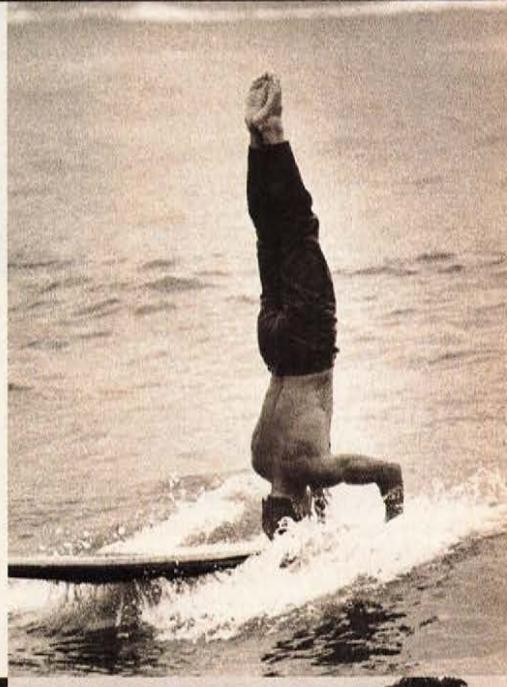
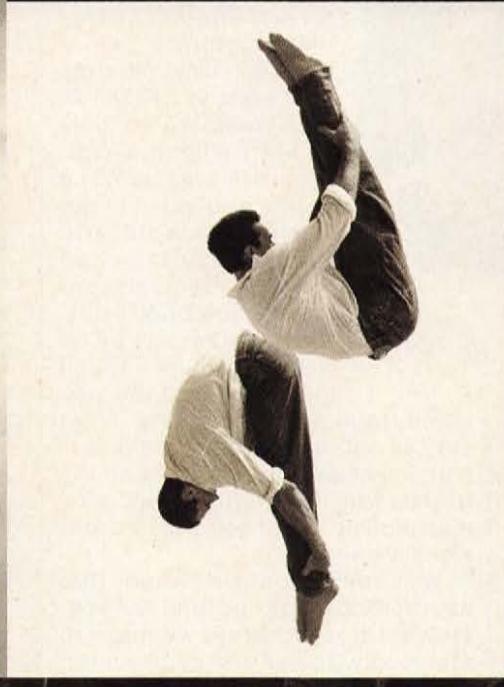
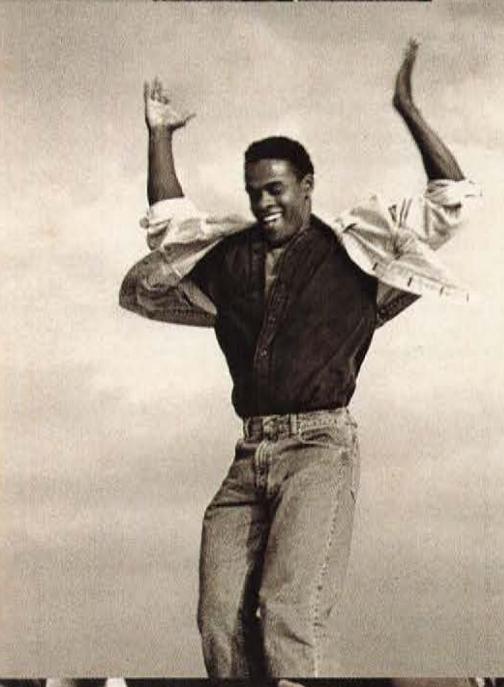
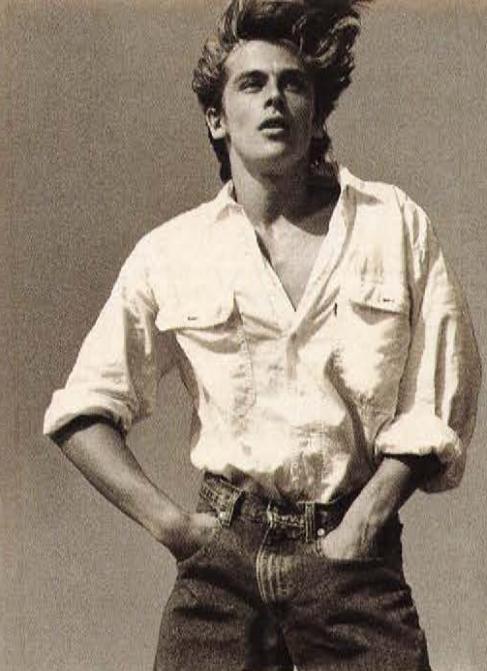
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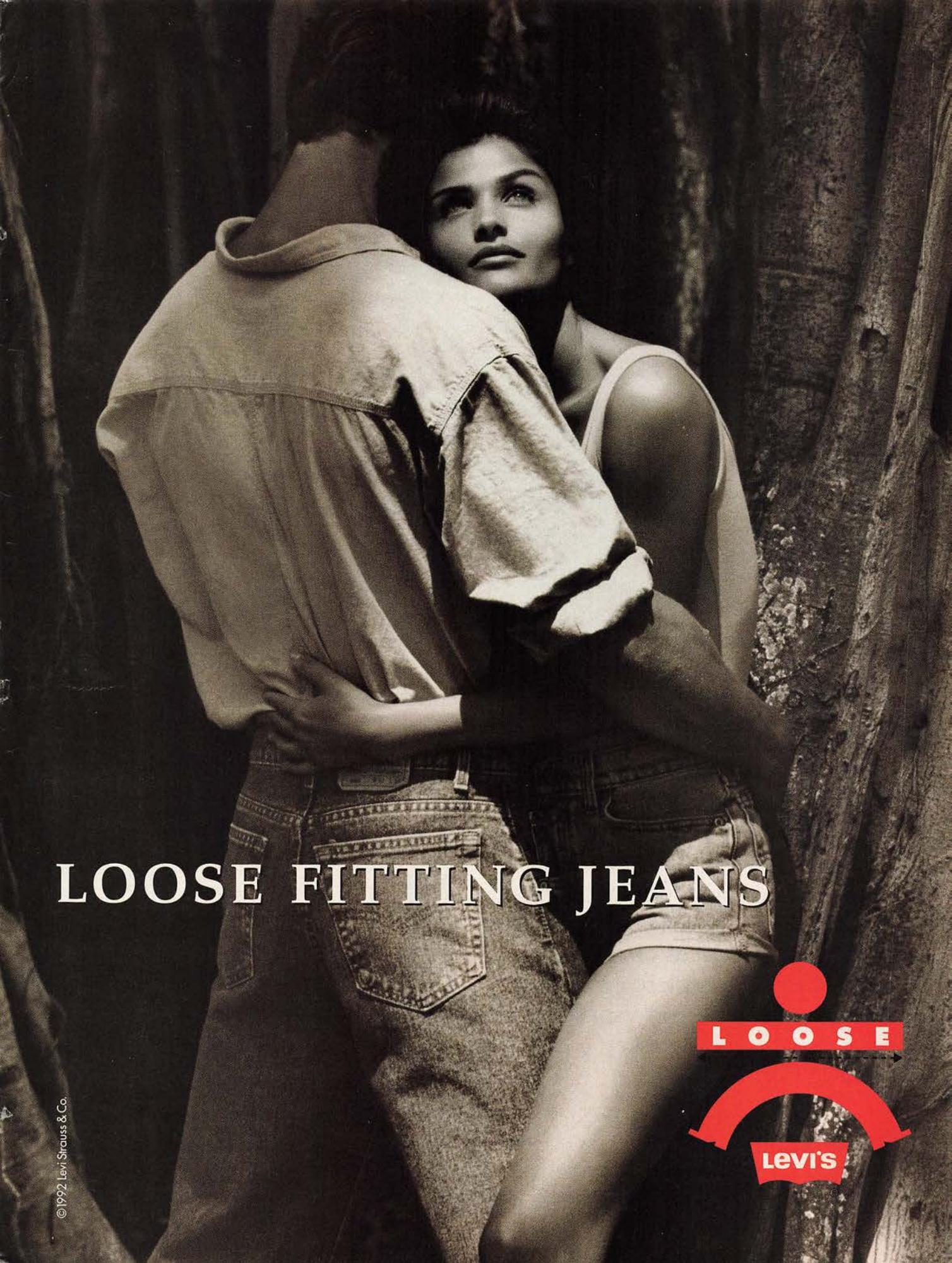
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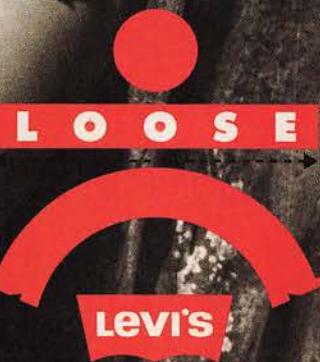


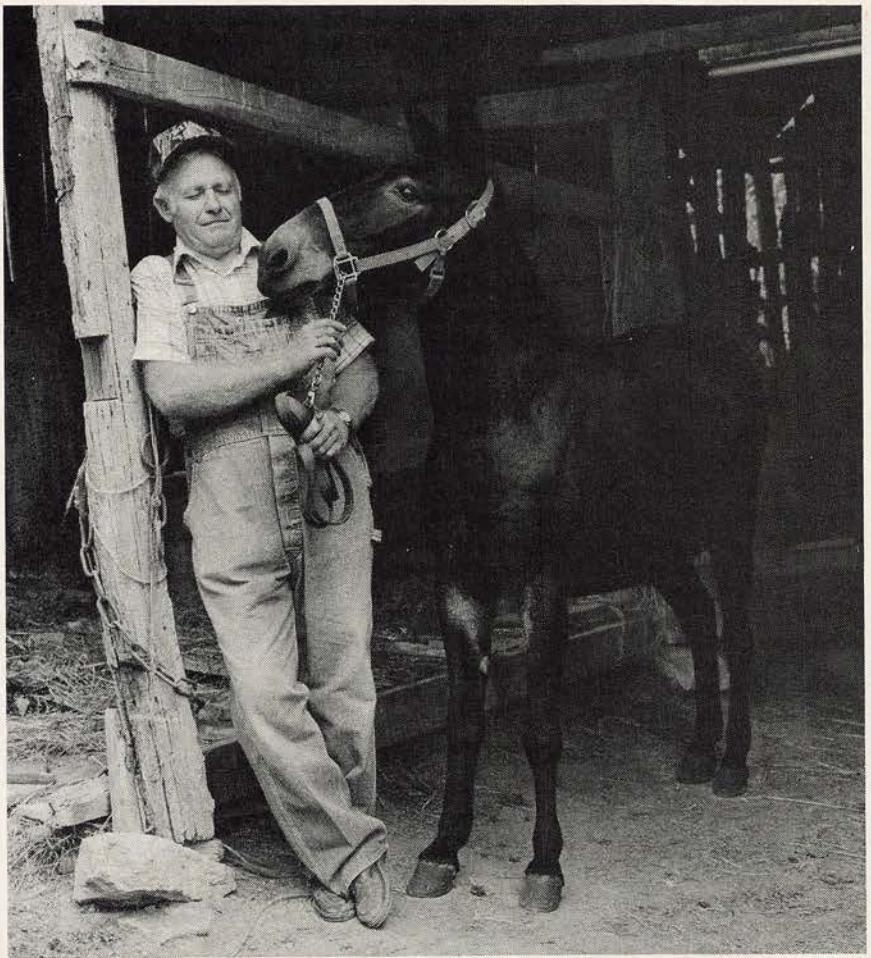
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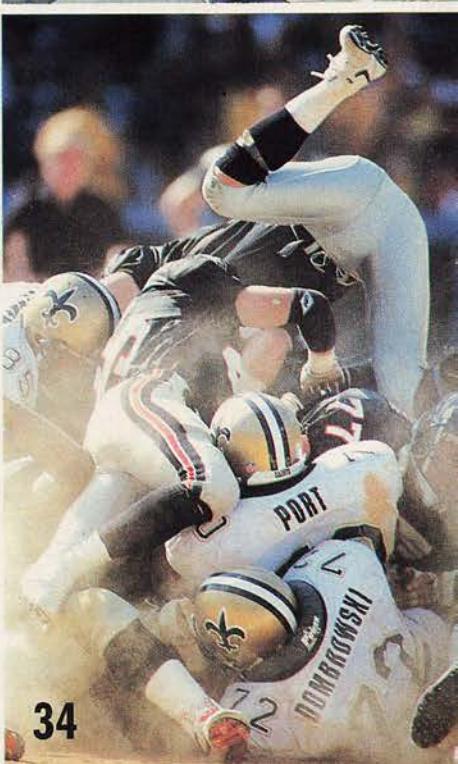
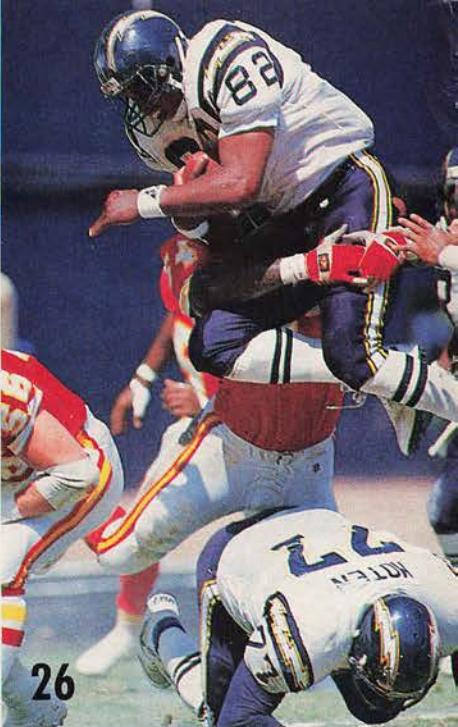
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SPORT

SEPTEMBER 1992

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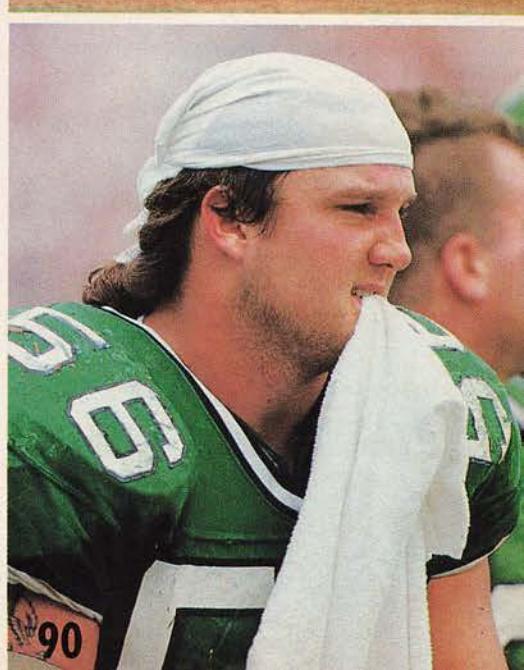
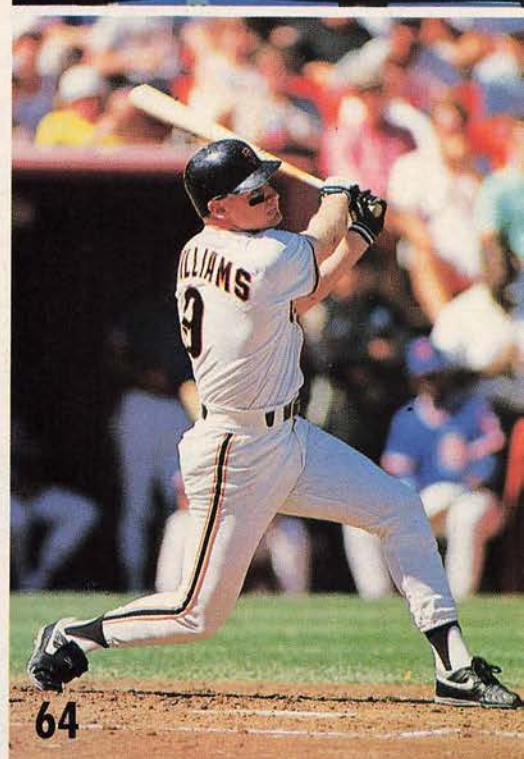
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WILL BILLS BOUNCE BACK?

I take exception to your article about Buffalo in the July issue ("Can the Bills Bounce Back?") that included comments about the Bills fans' "defeatist attitude" this year.

The quote is a gross generalization and inaccurately describes the true feelings of the vast majority of Bills fans. As editor of *Shout!*, a Bills fans publication, I am in constant contact with the team's supporters. I can honestly say that while fans know that a third trip to the Super Bowl will not be easy, they remain optimistic.

Brian Spindler
Rochester, New York

FLYING HIGH

I commend you on the outstanding article on the Eagles' Seth Joyner ("From the Old School," July). Not only is he one of the most dominating linebackers, but he is one of the most intense football players to come into the NFL in a long time. You gave him the recognition he has long deserved.

Todd Moskauskis
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

THE MONEY GAME

I want to comment on a story that ran in your June issue, "Look What They've Done to Our Game." Salaries were mentioned often in the article, and I want to point out that it's the parents of ballplayers who encourage the big money. I'm not your

typical baseball fan—I'm a 35-year-old mother of three—but my two sons played baseball until quitting at the ages of 13 and 14. In their league, there were continual pitching lessons, hitting practice two or three times a week, batting cages in back yards, and stay-over camps that put kids through drills from sunrise to sunset. The children are being drilled for the big leagues, and by the time they're old enough to be drafted, the only thing that will excite them is money, not the game. My kids quit when it wasn't fun anymore, and that's fine with me.

Gail Broderick
Westlake Village, California

"A man ought to get all he can earn. A man who knows he's making money for other people ought to get some of

the profit he brings in. Don't make any difference if it's baseball or a bank or a vaudeville show. It's business, I tell you. There ain't no sentiment to it. Forget that stuff." You nostalgic dreamers about the good old days probably think that's Jose Canseco talking, but it's Babe Ruth. After years and years of playing for a fraction of their worth, professional athletes are getting a slice of the pie. The salaries they receive are finally beginning to compare to the revenue they generate for their clubs. People go to the ballpark to see the players, and I've heard that Nolan Ryan brings in an extra 5,000 spectators every time he pitches. Over a season's worth of starts, that's an extra 100,000 tickets and an extra million in revenue. Then there's the money from

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television he helps bring in. In return, Ryan earns \$4 million a year. Big business is what our country is based on, and athletes are playing the game right.

Ben Peters
Berkeley, California

We're neutral on this one, but you make an interesting point. This is business, you say, and salaries merely reflect revenues. So in return for a million bucks from extra fans, and, let's say, a million bucks in extra television-rights fees attributable to Nolan Ryan (a purely arbitrary amount we made up that nonetheless seems liberally reasonable), the team pays him \$4 million a year. In other words, \$2 million in extra revenue in return for \$4 million in salary. Nolan Ryan, at least, is playing the game

of big business right.

MAGIC A SINNER?

You get high marks for your commentary on Magic Johnson's predicament, but you fail theology ("A Reason to Believe," June). Jeff Weinstock says in the article, "There is something self-evidently good in telling the truth." The truth is that irresponsibility—promiscuity—is not just a weakness. It really is a sin.

Rev. Timothy Heintzelman
Thomaston, Connecticut

THOMAS' TRAVAILS

Thanks for the article on Isiah Thomas ("The Trials of Isiah," June). As a lifelong Pistons fan, I can attest to

the fact that until Thomas came to Detroit, it was a vacation for visiting NBA teams. Now, 11 years and two championship banners later, the Pistons are among the best teams ever to play the game. Isiah played a major role in accomplishing this with his style, heart, dedication and skill. His ability to encourage his team to play at a higher level is the mark of a true Hall of Famer, and he deserves all the credit he gets, as well as a spot on the Olympic team.

Mike Decrescenzo
Mesa, Arizona

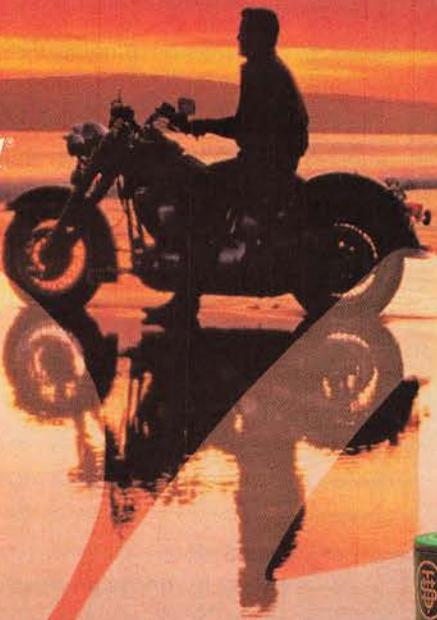
Excuse me if I don't feel sorry for Isiah Thomas. Your article talks about his almost-career-ending injury at the hands—elbow, actually—of Karl Malone. Some injuries are tragic, but this one has

been milked for all it's worth. I've heard, read and seen that story at least a hundred times, and I thought I'd seen the last of it. His 40-stitch, vision-blurring, career-threatening gash sounds impressive, but the facts are wrong. According to Steve Luhm, writing in the *Salt Lake Tribune* sports section, a Jazz surgeon named Dr. Lyle Mason says that the injury required no more than 15 stitches. The doctor said it was a one-inch-long cut on his brow, and he compared it to what a child could expect after falling and hitting a coffee table. The injury, said Mason, "was grossly overblown."

Ray Dent
Salt Lake City, Utah

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THE OSTLER FILE

UPON FURTHER REVIEW... THE INSTANT-REPLAY OFFICIALS DIDN'T JUST SLOW THE GAME DOWN. THEY TOOK IT HOSTAGE

Stop me if you've heard this theory: The reason instant-replay officiating died, and took the NFL's credibility with it, is that the replay officials existed in a parallel universe.

Their universe was exactly like ours. They saw the same events we saw, only they saw them a lo-o-o-o-o-slo-o-o-o-ower.

That was the fatal flaw in the system—the speed of execution. An NFL game is already chopped up like a salami by TV commercials, but that's cool. We recognize TV commercials to be important. Without beer commercials, for instance, how would we know what our lives should be like?

But after you threw in several agonizingly long replay deliberations, as our beer warmed and our pompoms and spirits sagged, what you had was *footballus interruptus*.

The instant-replay officials didn't just slow the game down. They took it hostage.

Instant-replay officiating was the worst-executed good idea in America since the income tax.

The league, for some reason, put replay officiating in the hands of men who lacked the gene for snap judgment.

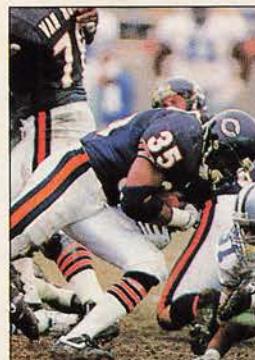
Those mysterious officials up in the booth, behind the smoked glass, pondering the reverse angles and the slow-mos with Aristotelian angst—who were those guys? I'll tell you.

They were the guys in the four-some ahead of you, taking five minutes to line up that four-inch putt. They were the guys in front of you in the supermarket checkout line who unload their carts alphabetically. They were the guys at the head of the line at Burger Barn who can't decide between the Double Trouble with cheese and the Cheesy Half-pounder.

Maybe it was the lack of uniforms. Had the league outfitted replay officials in the traditional zebra shirts and silly stockings and caps, it would have been im-



SCOTT OSTLER



possible for them to take themselves so seriously. Besides, scientific studies have proven that wearing a business suit can slow down the human thinking process by as much as 50 percent.

Here was the core of the mystery: Why did it take three minutes to decide whether or not the wide receiver's left foot came down on the chalk line? The average fan, watching on TV, deep into his second six-pack, could make the same call in 8.7 seconds.

In those distant camera shots of the replay booth, the officials looked like expectant fathers in the maternity waiting area. You got the feeling this wasn't the same crew that works NASA's ground control.

The whole operation was clouded in secrecy. We never really saw the replay officials' faces or heard their voices. The evaluation of a fumble was only slightly more solemn and shrouded than the selection of a new Pope.

We're waiting for the decision of the replay officials, folks. Remember, a white puff of smoke from the press-box chimney means the play stands as called, a black puff means the call is reversed, and a green puff means they've shorted out their control board again.

This secrecy, as in the investigation of the JFK assassination, led to the birth of wild theories.

You know why they take so long? The guy on the phone is actually calling home. "Honey? Could you turn on channel 4 and tell me what John Madden is saying about the ground causing a fumble? No, go ahead and get the kids dressed for church first. I'll wait."

Among the owners who voted the replay out of existence—and it was a minority of 11 owners who did the deed—one of the main objections to the system was that it put too much pressure on the field officials, especially the younger ones. It made them nervous, tentative. They were sensitive to second-guessing from on high.

My response to this argument is a long, sonic-booming soul belch.

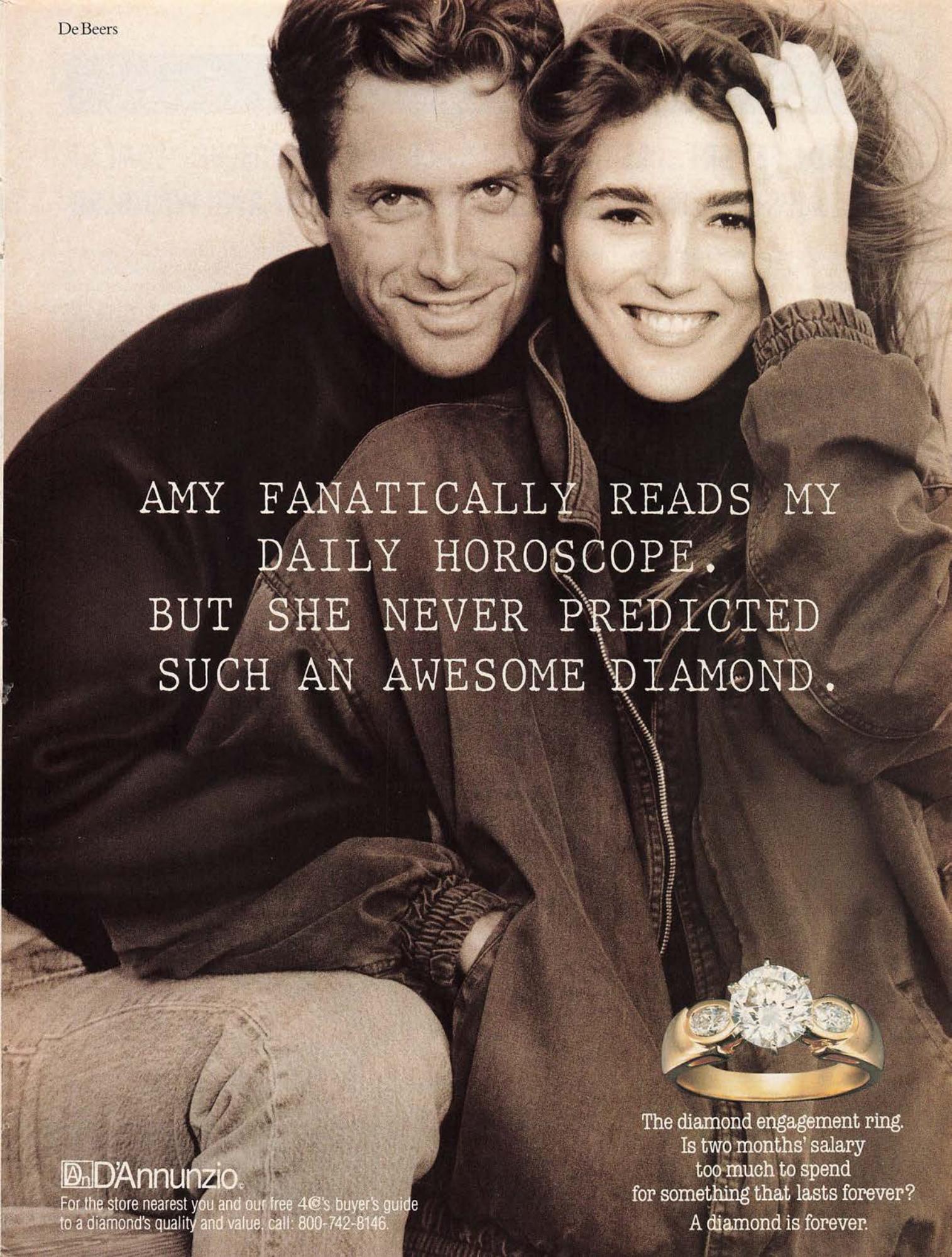
If you're a sensitive person, you become a poet, not an NFL official.

This season, with video technology more amazing than ever, every NFL officiating error will be replayed and magnified and computer-enhanced and laughed at and cried over by every fan at every ballpark and in every living room. But up in the replay booth—nobody home.

This will not cause a problem, except for people who care about their NFL football. Controversies will pile up like stinking garbage during a garbage-collector's strike.

What can the league do? Simple. In the name of progress, eliminate all TV coverage of NFL football.

The owners are dumb. And if they want a second opinion: On further review, they're ugly too.★



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TRADE FEVER!... AS THE AUGUST 31 DEADLINE APPROACHES, SOME OF BASEBALL'S BIGGEST NAMES ARE INVOLVED IN TRADE TALKS BY RICK WEINBERG

The pennant races are getting serious, which means general managers of contending clubs are conducting serious trade talks with general managers of non-contending clubs, looking for the deal—or steal—that will deliver a championship.

"I just talked to an American League GM today who's looking for a shortstop, another who's looking for a power hitter, and three others looking for pitchers," says Cincinnati Reds general manager **Bob Quinn**.

Yep. As August 31 (the deadline for playoff rosters to be submitted) approaches, contenders needing a veteran bat, arm or leader for the stretch drive look toward the depths of the divisions, where lowly clubs are dying to trim their payrolls by dumping a high-salaried veteran or a potential free agent (or risk losing him for zippo) and looking for young, inexpensive prospects to brighten their futures.

So who's going to be dealt in this year's stretch drive? Conversations with several general managers, scouts and agents resulted in these findings:

Oakland, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Boston (even with its great first-half ERA) will go after starting pitching. The A's have their eyes on Kansas City's **Mike Boddicker**. They also might try to lure—get this—**Bruce Hurst** out of San Diego (Hurst wants to be dealt, and if the Padres fall out of the race, he'll get his wish), or **Bobby Ojeda** out of Los Angeles (only if L.A.'s completely out of the division race). Baltimore's looking into bringing back Boddicker, its former ace, as a fourth or fifth starter or acquiring a lefty, as its rotation is all-righty. But it won't be Detroit's **Frank Tanana**; he'll land in Boston or with the White Sox. One scout says Pittsburgh and Milwaukee are a nice match for a deal involving Brewers right-hander **Chris Bosio**. The Pirates

are also looking at the Royals' **Tom Gordon**. (They love his arm, as do most clubs; it's his own lack of confidence in his stuff that prevents Gordon from being a big winner). The Yankees' **Scott Sanderson** might land in Pittsburgh (if New York agrees to absorb some contract costs), and Toronto is pursuing any third-to-fifth starter (Hurst, Boddicker, Bosio) to ensure its first World Series appearance.

Oakland, Toronto, St. Louis, the White Sox, Boston and Milwaukee would die for **Dennis Martinez**, who gets better and better. But Montreal won't give him up—even in a three-for-one swap—because it doesn't have anyone to step in as the ace.

As for hitters, there are some big names under discussion. How about **Andre Dawson**? He's a 38-year-old potential free agent who has bad knees but is

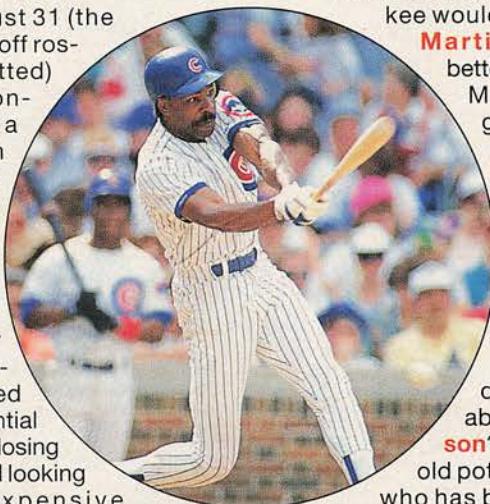
still one serious hitter. Perfect DH requisites. If the Cubs are out of the pennant picture, Dawson's gone. To where? Baltimore, Boston or the White Sox. Look for Montreal's **Ivan Calderon** (if he's healthy) to go to Toronto or Baltimore. Both love him. Here's a

shocker: Montreal second baseman **Delino DeShields** to Baltimore. No joke. DeShields and center fielder **Marquis Grissom** are up for arbitration, and since the Expos only want to pay one of them, and with **Bret Barberie** available to take over at second, well, you get the pic-

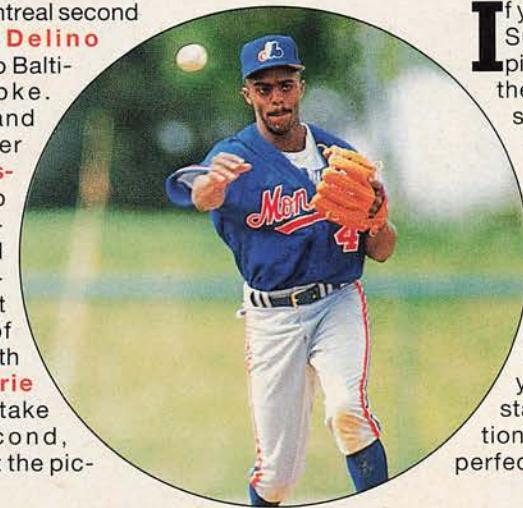
ture. DeShields, who is from Delaware, would love to play near home, and who wouldn't want to play in Camden Yards anyway? Other hitters available: Milwaukee's **Franklin Stubbs** (the Brewers are dying to dump him, yet few will take on his contract); Montreal's **Tim Wallach** (the Twins have their eye on him); Kansas City's **Kevin McReynolds**; the Yankees' **Kevin Maas**; the Angels' **Hubie Brooks**; **Junior Felix** and **Gary Gaetti** (if someone's willing to take on Gaetti's contract); Seattle's **Kevin Mitchell** and **Jay Buhner**; and naturally Boston's **Jack Clark** (who's been available since Columbus sailed).

Final notes: If St. Louis falters, Toronto will go after shortstop **Ozzie Smith**, who'd be the final piece to a World Series dream.

What about **Nolan Ryan** being dealt so that he can fulfill his dream of getting into his second—and last—World Series? It's possible, not probable. "If he felt strongly about being traded, we'd consider it, but the decision is all Nolan's, not management's," says Texas general manager **Tom Grieve**. "We love him, he's meant so much to this franchise, and [we] want him to finish his career here." What'd ya say Nolan? "It's not right for me to say anything about that, because it depends on a lot of things." Ah. So he would consider it. Probably because of his chilly relationship with manager **Bobby Valentine**.



JON SOOHO/BERNSTEIN & ASSOC.



If you don't think the Super Bowl champion Redskins relish the opening of their schedule—they kick it off with bitter rival Dallas on the first Monday Night Game, then play the two clubs they hammered in the playoffs, Atlanta and Detroit—then you don't understand the organization's mentality. "It's perfect," says quarter-

TRUE BLUE

back Mark Rypien. "Opening against the three clubs dying to knock us off is the ultimate challenge—and this organization loves challenges. We wouldn't want it any other way." If you presume it gets easier at the end for the 'Skins—wrong. They close with Dallas, Philadelphia and the Raiders. Talk about a vicious schedule.

The best three teams in football are in the NFC East—and the Giants aren't one of them. We're talking about the Redskins, Eagles and Cowboys. Sad thing is, the team that winds up winning this division might be too beat up and tired to go deep into the playoffs. Then again, "it could prepare you better—mentally and physically—to breeze through the playoffs," says Cowboys coach **Jimmy Johnson**. How



TOM DRAKE

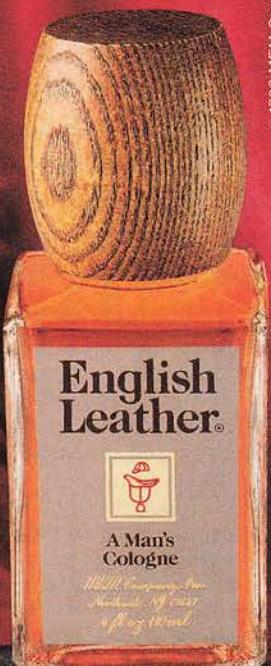
great is this division? Four of the last six Super Bowl champs are from the NFC East, four different NFC East clubs have gone to the Super Bowl since '78, and the division has been represented in 50 percent of all Super Bowls (13 out of 26).

Sometime in the next few weeks, Milwaukee's **Robin Yount** will become the 17th player in history to reach 3,000 hits. When I ran into Yount at County Stadium recently, I was curious to know how many guys he could name on the 3,000-hit list. Sorry to say, it was an embarrassing moment. "Aw, I don't know," he said, red-faced. "[Pete] Rose, I know that. [Ty] Cobb, maybe." Amazing. Here's a guy who's a huge part of baseball history and he isn't even definite that Cobb is on the list. That's a shame.★

A large photograph of a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and red pants, hugging a man from behind. The man has curly hair and is wearing a red shirt. They are standing in front of a large American flag. The woman is smiling and looking towards the camera. The man's back is to the viewer. The scene is set outdoors with a clear sky.

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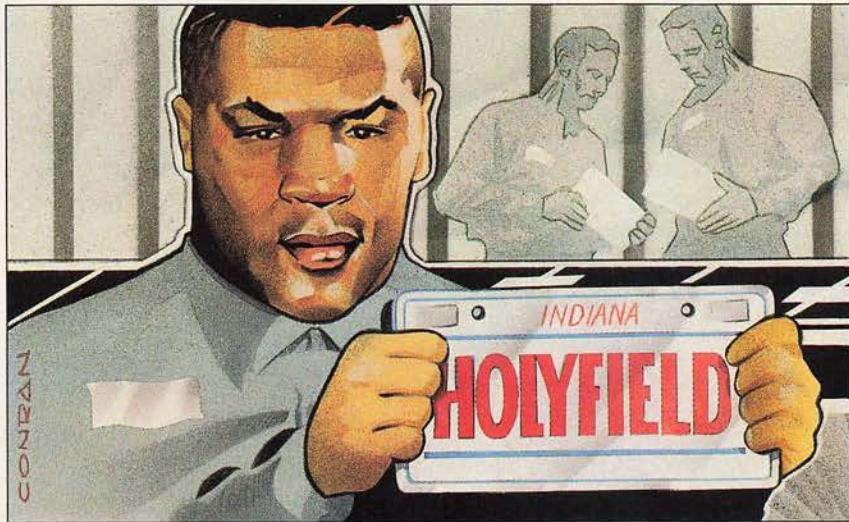


English Leather

FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS.

IRON-BAR MIKE

A DAY IN THE NEW LIFE OF MIKE TYSON



You know him as Mike Tyson, but his new friends and keepers at the Indiana Youth Center in Plainfield, Ind.—his home until 1995 at the very least, if he exhibits the best good behavior—know him as "Offender Tyson." Or "Number 922335." His formerly chaotic life has become blissfully simple.

The facility houses around 1,400 "residents," ranging in age from 17 to 70. Offender Tyson, who just turned 26, lives in a "housing unit" with 167 other inmates, who share two-man rooms. He arises at 6 a.m., has breakfast at 6:30; his work day, so to speak, begins at 8. For his first few months in stir, Tyson went to classes to get him through high school, one of those little things he missed on his way to adulthood. But, hey, it's not like he needed a diploma to get a job, is it? In 1990, he earned almost \$15 million as a baby-talking-dropout-turned boxing champ.

Tyson dropped out of school again, on July 1. Instead, he works in the prison recreation department and gym, where he dispenses athletic equipment to the

other inmates, in addition to sweeping and mopping and generally keeping the facilities clean.

Lunch is at 11:30, and at 12:30 Offender Tyson returns to his work assignment. Come 3:30, he's back at the housing unit, dinner's at 4:00, and until 10 p.m., Offender Tyson can engage in recreational activities.

Lights out at 11:30

For fun, there are movies—"Thelma and Louise" was playing the week before Offender Tyson entered the IYC—and there's always the gym or library. Lots of religion is also available—Jehovah's Witness meetings, Islamic prayer groups, "Jesus is the answer" discussions and bible study. He has to share a TV with a few dozen others, but he can have his own radio.

Not only does Offender Tyson have an almost decision-free life of career development and scintillating recreational activities, the IYC has its own version of a "home shopping network." It's called "commissary," and it works

(Continued on page 18)

BASEBALL

WILLIE RANDOLPH'S FAVORITE SHORTSTOP

Second baseman Willie Randolph played with 32 different shortstops during his 13 years with the New York Yankees. Four teams later, Randolph is on a pace to shatter that mark. He's already played with 16 other shortstops. But that doesn't stop Randolph from picking his favorite double-play partner.

"Bucky Dent is my favorite shortstop only because we won championships together during the late 1970s," says Randolph, who is currently a New York Met. "That's a true measure of a good double-play combination. There were guys who were more talented than Bucky, but they couldn't touch him when it came to fundamentals." —William Ladson

WILLIE RANDOLPH'S SHORTSTOPS

Dave Anderson	Alfredo Griffin	Dick Schofield
Sandy Alomar	Jeff Hamilton	Rodney Scott
Luis Aquayo	Lenny Harris	Dennis Sherrill
Kevin Baez	Rex Hudler	Roy Smalley
Dale Berra	Mickey Klutts	Keith Smith
Paul Blair	Jim Mason	Bill Spiers
Mike Bordick	Mario Mendoza	Fred Stanley
Ivan DeJesus	Bobby Meacham	Rennie Stennett
Bucky Dent	Larry Milbourne	Dale Sveum
Brian Doyle	Graig Nettles	Frank Taveras
Mariano Duncan	Junior Noboa	Wayne Tolleson
Alvaro Espinoza	Mike Pagliarulo	Jose Vizcaino
Kevin Elster	Bill Pecota	Randy Velarde
Barry Evans	Domingo Ramos	Walt Weiss
Mike Fischlin	Craig Reynolds	Dennis Werth
Tim Foli	Andre Robertson	George Zeber
Damaso Garcia	Rafael Santana	Paul Zuvella
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EDITED BY WILLIAM LADSON & TERRY MULGANNON

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Potential winner will be notified by mail. Potential winner must follow the directions contained in any required Affidavit of Eligibility / Release of Liability / Prize Acceptance Form / skill-testing notification / or any correspondence attached therewith and return all forms, correctly filled out, within 21 days of the date on the correspondence. Noncompliance within this time period will result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. In order to be awarded a prize, residents of Canada will be required to correctly answer a time-limited arithmetical skill-testing question. In the event the skill-testing question is not correctly answered within the time limit, an alternate winner will be selected.

The prize consists of a Mustang GT convertible. The

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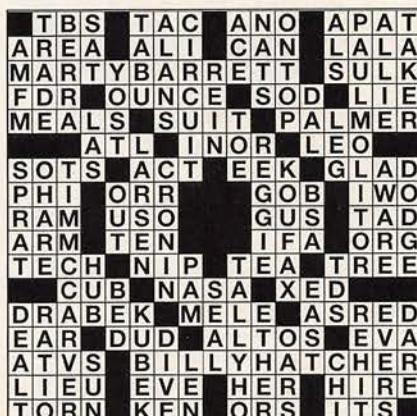
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SPORT TALK

BASEBALL

THE KNUCKLEBALL COMEBACK

The knuckleball looked just about dead not too many years ago. As the 1988 season got underway, the historically baffling pitch seemed on its way out.

Three-hundred-game winner Phil Niekro and his brother, Joe, two of the top flutterball pitchers of all time, had recently retired. Only Charlie Hough, then a Texas Ranger, and Tom Candiotti (pictured), with Cleveland at the time, still used the pitch. And Hough was 40. The knuckleball would probably end with their careers.

Now fast-forward to the present.

The knuckleball is being revived as never before. Hough, now 44 and a member of the Chicago White Sox, and Candiotti, 35, and the Los Angeles Dodgers' top starter, are teaching younger pitchers the mysteries of the knuckleball.

At least six organizations began this season grooming knuckleball pitchers in the minors. The Pirates were most successful, fashioning a knuckleballer out of Tim Wakefield. The Dodgers' chain sported right-handers Dennis Springer and Rafael Gutierrez. The White Sox had Hough—who also talked to Wakefield and Springer—teach left-hander Greg Fritz the knuckleball from scratch. The Brewers had right-hander Steve Sparks. Long-time major-league journeyman reliever Mark Huisman, 34, converted to the knuckleball—and became a starter—in Triple-A for the Royals. And the Orioles worked with right-handed reliever David Riddle.

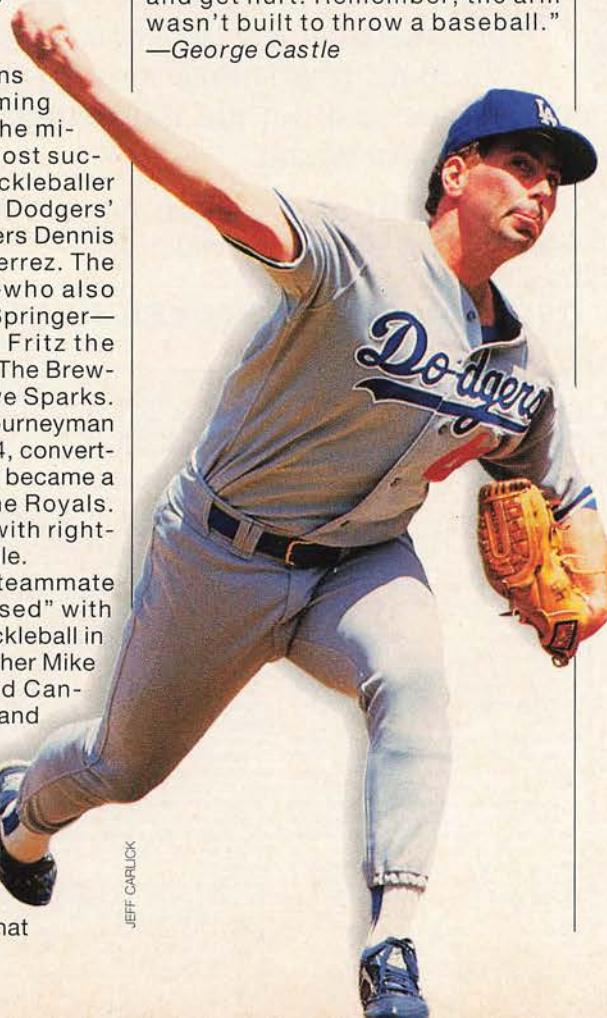
Candiotti reports that teammate Orel Hershiser is "obsessed" with the idea of throwing a knuckleball in the near future. Royals pitcher Mike Boddicker also contacted Candiotti. And Chicago farm hand Fritz says that as he worked with Hough last September at Comiskey Park, "all the [White Sox] pitchers wanted to see what I was doing."

Why the sudden interest in a difficult-to-learn pitch that

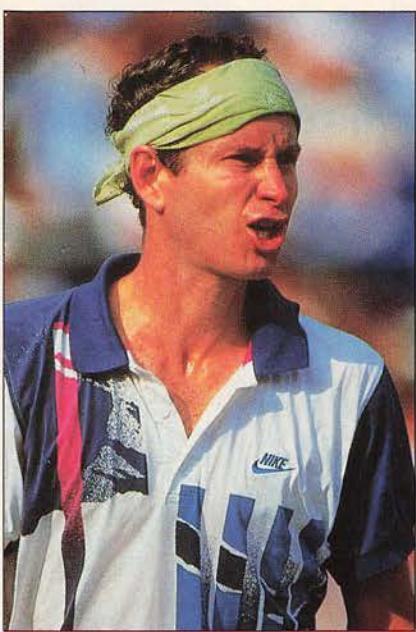
dances unpredictably to the plate at a low speed? The growing shortage of pitchers throwing quality conventional stuff is a major factor. Cubs player-development chief Dick Balderson predicts that by the late 1990s each major-league club will possess only a "couple" of good pitchers. Candiotti theorizes that teams want to develop minimum-salaried major-leaguers out of minor-league non-prospects.

And with disabled lists loaded with pitchers, there's growing disenchantment with the split-fingered fastball, the rage of the 1980s. "The split-finger may put stress on the shoulder and elbow," says Candiotti. According to Gordon Goldsberry, top aide to Orioles general manager Roland Hemond: "There are a lot of new pitches on the market—the split-finger, the slider, the cut fastball, scroogies. But in a lot of cases, pitchers aren't sure how to throw it and get hurt. Remember, the arm wasn't built to throw a baseball."

—George Castle



JEFF CARLUCK



TENNIS

JOHN McENROE'S U.S. OPEN MOUTH

The 1992 U.S. Open, beginning in late August, will probably be John McEnroe's last Grand Slam event, if he enters, and it would be fitting for him to close the door on his career in a venue that did so much to make him a legendary brat.

It was the site of his most memorable blowups, and in commemoration we've compiled a short retrospective of the most notable incidents that helped make John McEnroe the guy we most hated to love.

• In 1980, en route to a semifinal victory over Jimmy Connors, McEnroe took exception to the chair umpire's calls. "You stupid fool!" he yelled, later adding, "I know your name—Mr. Incompetent!"

• In 1984, during a quarterfinal win over Gene Mayer, McEnroe boiled over with rage at noisy fans, and, inevitably, at an umpire. "Show everyone how big and important you are," he said to the ump, "by doing worse than you're already doing."

• In 1985, during a quarterfinal match with Joakim Nystrom, McEnroe blew up at an audio technician for waving a microphone boom in his face, saying, "I hate you.... I hate your ugly face."

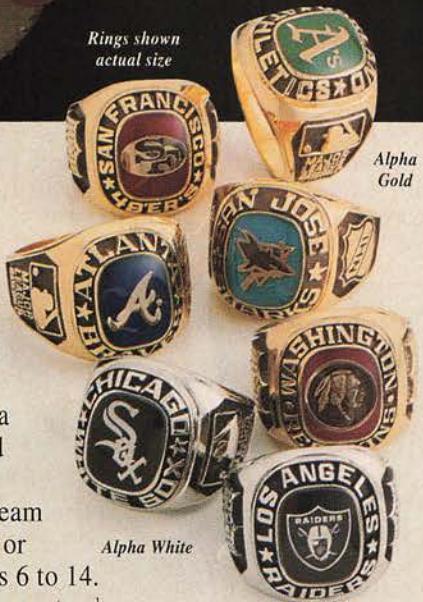
—Mike Berardino

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SPORT TALK

(Continued from page 14)

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Oddly, Offender Tyson was unhappy about his entrance into this state-subsidized self-improvement program.

"For a man that had so much notoriety and done the things he's done," says Trigg, "to be restricted in his movements, to have somebody tell him when to get up, when to go to bed, when to take a shower—we have six formal counts a day—it takes time to adjust to that situation. He didn't want to be here, he was angry, and he expressed that. That's understandable."

—Christophe Leray

FOOTBALL

WILL THE VIKINGS RESPOND TO DENNIS GREEN?

When the Minnesota Vikings hired Dennis Green to replace Jerry Burns as head coach, it meant that this was management's last attempt to revive the team's current batch of underachieving talent. This is a dysfunctional group that has griped about pay, complained of racism and compiled numerous alcohol-related arrests.

But according to Vikings wide receiver Anthony Carter, Green's no-nonsense attitude should take care of most of the internal problems.

"[Green] is letting everyone know that he's in charge," Carter says. "We need that in order to go further into the playoffs."

Green's no-nonsense style will probably turn off a few Vikings; he's already butted heads with safety Joey Browner. But for every pampered star Green alienates, he'll win four supporters in the locker room.

"I've got an open-door policy," says Green. "That means you can talk to me about anything, but don't bring me B.S."

—Jim Souhan



RICK A. KOLODZIEJ

BOOK REVIEW

NASCAR CONFIDENTIAL!

"Behind the Wall: A Season on the NASCAR Circuit," by Richard Huff (Bonus Books, \$19.95, 278 pages)

What you see behind the wall is not a pretty picture. This is no glowing account of triumph over diversity, a year in NASCAR with a happy face at the end. "Behind the Wall" is as gritty and gut-wrenching as the year Richard Huff spent on the circuit.

Huff is a business reporter for the entertainment-industry staple *Daily Variety*, and he spent the 1991 season with driver Terry Labonte and the team that preps his Sunoco Oldsmobile. It was not an easy year for anyone involved. There were many ups and downs, and we're not just talking results here.

The book starts out at the Pepsi 400, the midpoint of the NASCAR year. In a first chapter called "Troubled Vibrations," Huff tells how Labonte quit the race just minutes after it began due to a mysterious problem with his car. It is clear that many think Labonte just used this as an excuse to save himself the embarrassment of a bad finish. The book goes on to chronicle the adversity inherent in a situation involving bad luck, occasionally dissatisfied sponsors, fired crew members and an only pretty-good driver who leaves much to be desired in the charm-and-charisma department.

Huff writes in a detached style with a curiously neutral tone, however. He is no cheerleader, but the objectivity of the book is laden with a certain lifelessness. The story is uncomfortably revealing and compelling, but Huff himself doesn't seem particularly excited by it. The characters described aren't allowed to speak much for themselves, and they're somewhat two-dimensional; you don't feel you know them very well.

These few shortcomings aside, the book is an easy read, and it tells the real, ongoing story of what goes into a NASCAR effort, or, for that matter, any auto racing effort. Whether you're a casual fan or racing addict, this is a book you have to read.

—Terry Mulgannon



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MEL HALL

"WHEN I DIE, EVERYONE EXPECTS ME
TO GO STRAIGHT TO HELL."

When I caught up with Mel Hall in his new one-bedroom apartment at New York City's Trump Tower, he looked more like a rich conservative than the off-the-wall biker often depicted by the media. On this day, the Yankees left-handed-hitting slugger is wearing a brown shirt, gray slacks and brown shoes.

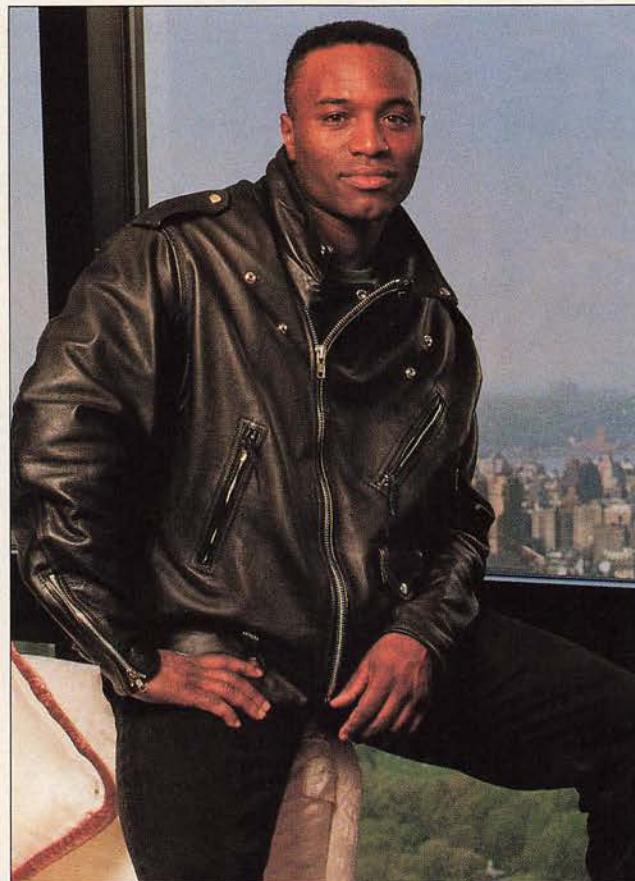
Where are the leather clothes that he wears in public? Where's the Harley-Davidson that he rides to the ballpark?

"I haven't found the time to move my belongings [from his Connecticut home] into Trump Tower," he says.

You can tell that Hall has just moved into his Manhattan digs. The cupboards are bare, and there's nothing on the walls except for two photos of his 5-year-old daughter, Bianca, who lives with his ex-wife in Los Angeles. Seating isn't a problem, thanks to his landlord and next-door neighbor, Donald Trump, but the two white couches need cleaning. Hall senses my disappointment that his place doesn't have the appearance of a biker's pad.

"I realize this apartment doesn't describe what I'm all about," he says. "I intend to get rid of the white couches and bring the black furniture that I left behind in Connecticut. That will tell you that I'm a true biker."

One thing Hall wouldn't trade is the bird's-eye view of



Manhattan. Below sits Central Park on West 57th Street; tall buildings dot the surrounding area. Hall claims that if someone tore down those structures, you could see the top of Yankee Stadium.

But while Hall admires the beautiful scenery, he suddenly remembers what some of his Yankees teammates told him after he moved into

his new apartment.

"Being that I live on the 64th floor," he says with a smile, "they told me that this will be the closest that I will get to heaven. When I die, everyone expects me to go straight to hell."

No, Hall didn't commit a crime. Let's just say that he isn't the perfect role model for Little Leaguers. Hall is always antagonizing oppo-

nents with his slow home-run trots. His short fuse has destroyed any relationship that he might have had with the media. He easily gets upset when they pry into his personal life. It's also safe to say that Hall isn't the most popular player in the Yankees' clubhouse. His loud presence is sometimes not welcomed by his teammates.

Hall is a character off the field too. Two years ago, he was fined \$1,000 for keeping a pair of cougar cubs at his Connecticut home.

"Everybody has a hobby," he says. "Why can't I? [The cubs] didn't hurt anybody."

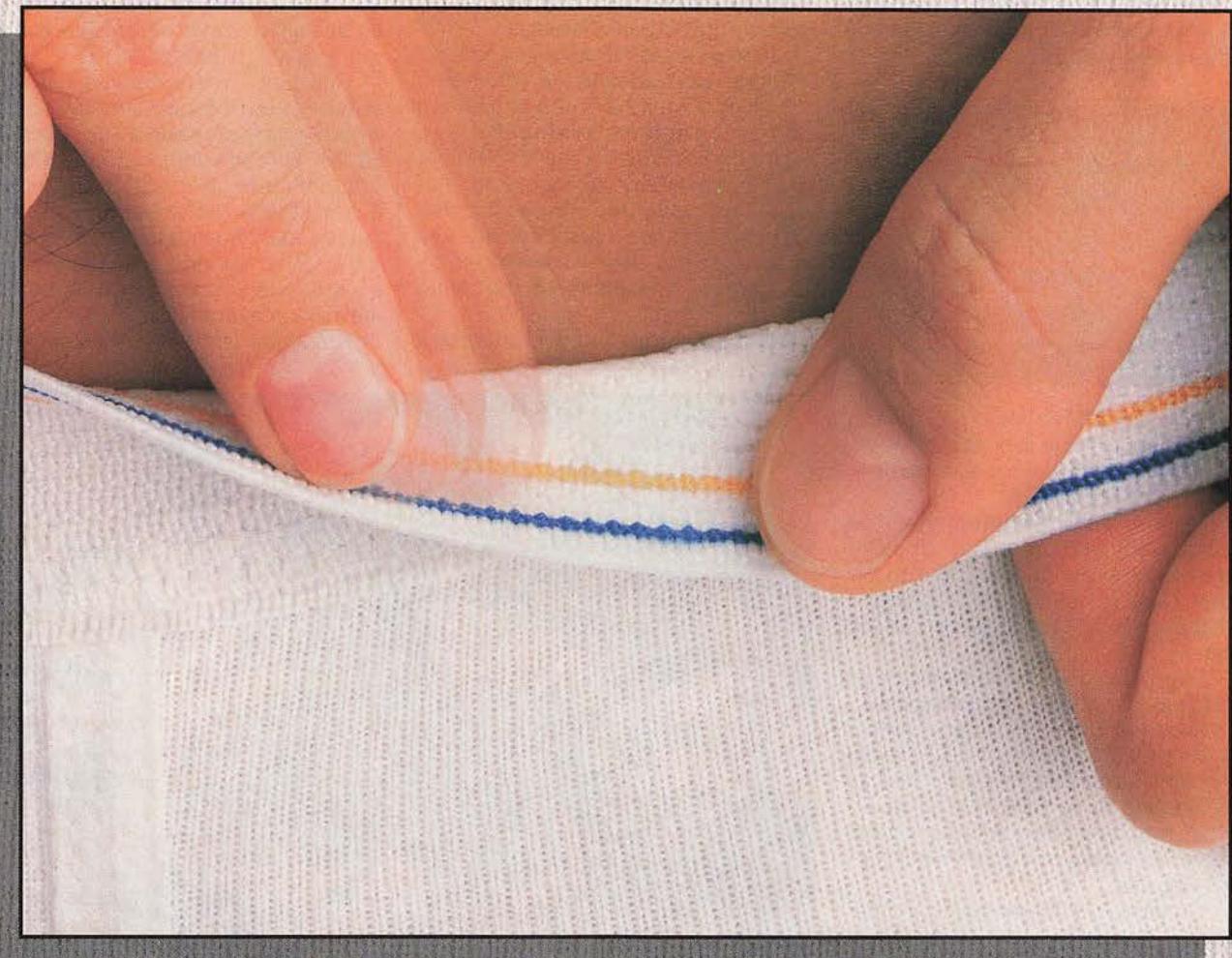
Rest has never been one of Hall's priorities. Most nights, you can catch him hanging out with a bunch of bikers called the Brothers' 3. They're not as rowdy as the Hell's Angels, but they have been known to drink each other under the table a few times.

Hall was never the perfect husband either. He's had two failed marriages. He will be the first to admit that his tantrums didn't help any. In fact, his temper has been a problem ever since he was a child growing up in Lyons, N.Y. He was the town bully who would pick a fight on a daily basis.

"My temper has gotten me into a lot of trouble over the years," he says. "But that's part of living on the edge. I love taking chances."

BY WILLIAM LADSON

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ONE ON ONE

that no one else is willing to take."

Hall's reasoning for living on the edge makes you wonder what kind of influence he has on Bianca.

"Yankee Stadium is tailor-made for lefty batters, which means that I'm more valuable than [teammate] Danny Tartabull."

"My ex-wife [Tanya Chine] doesn't raise [Bianca] to be like me," he says. "Bianca is prim and proper. She's brought up to be a lady."

Hall would change his lifestyle if he had custody of Bianca. But, since he doesn't, he will continue to live on the edge. Case in point: Hall is looking to purchase a grizzly bear by the end of the year.

"I want to take a chance and see if I could raise it," he says, straight-faced.

Hall is willing to give marriage another try. He's planning to marry 18-year-old Chastity Fernandez this fall. They've been dating since 1989. Hall acknowledges that he's been called a "cradle robber," but that won't stop him from going to the altar.

"Chastity is different from my other wives," he says proudly. "She knows how to react when I get upset. I can be difficult to the point where I don't care about anything."

At one time, it looked as if Hall didn't care about his baseball career. In 1990, he suffered the ignominious distinction of producing a sixth consecutive season with a batting average lower than his previous year's mark.

When he was with the Chicago Cubs, Hall had a reputation for being a slow learner who was difficult to coach. It's not as if he isn't blessed with talent. Hall, after all, was runner-up to Darryl Strawberry in rookie of the year balloting nine years ago.

Unfortunately, Hall became the classic underachiever after the Cubs traded him to the lowly Cleveland Indians in 1984. In the outfield, Hall looked more like Dave Kingman than he did Willie Mays, and he never became the run producer that the Tribe had hoped for. Losing became a distraction while he tried to hone his baseball skills.

"When you are playing for a losing club, you tend to say, 'Wow, I can't wait to leave the ballpark,'" he says.

Hall expressed those same feelings after he was traded to the Yankees in 1989. This time he found himself on the bench against southpaws, and rightfully so. Entering the '91 season, Hall had a career batting average of .164 against lefties. At age 30, Hall didn't realize that his career was at a crossroads until he was scolded by teammate Don Mattingly in the spring of '91.

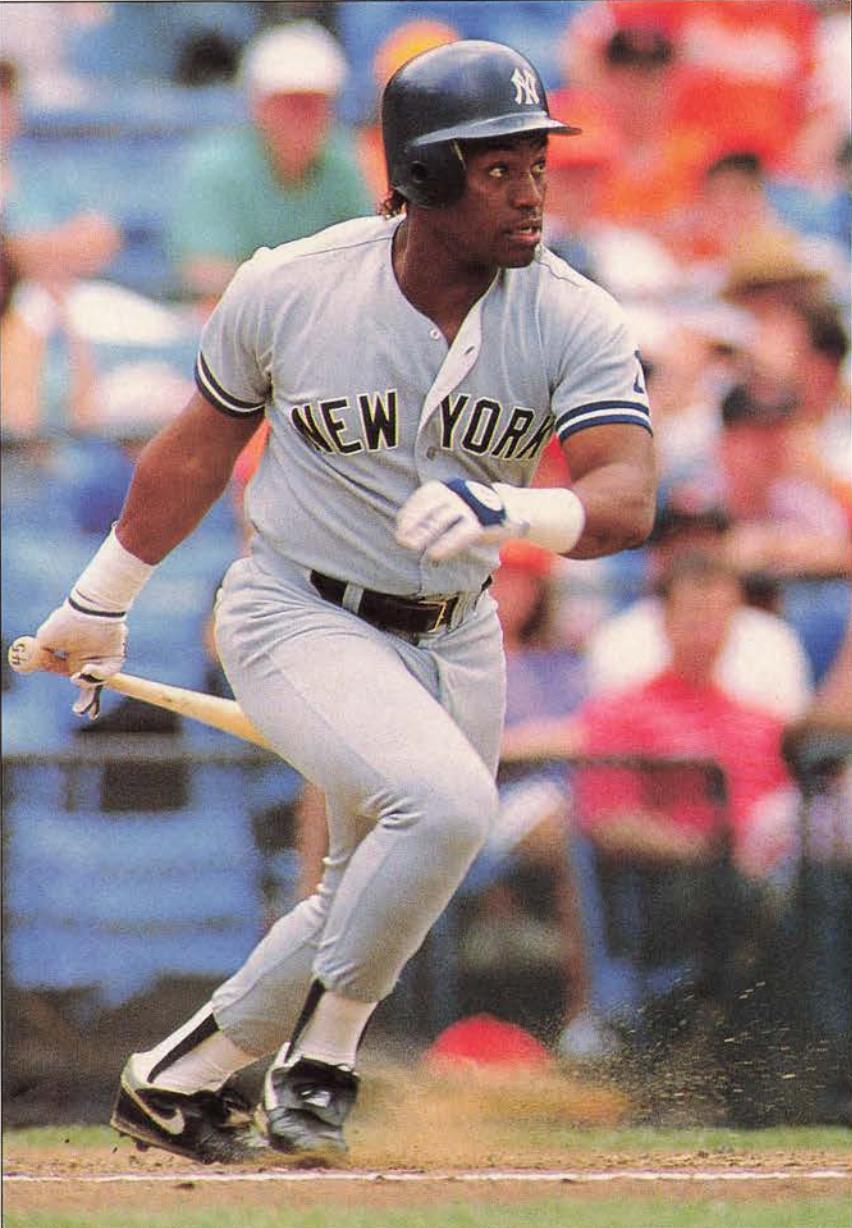
"Donny always thought I could be a

great player," he says. "He just told me to stay focused when I'm at the plate. He also said not to waste my at-bats, even if we're winning or losing 10-0."

Hall didn't waste many at-bats last season. He hit .285 and set career highs with 19 home runs and a team-leading 80 RBI. He even demonstrated that he could hit left-handers, batting .300 against them. His strikeout/walk ratio made a startling drop from 7.7 in '90 to 1.5 in '91. That kind of improvement, according to Stats, Inc., is rarely seen at the major-league level.

Hall's good fortune carried over into

MICHAEL LAYTON



the '92 season. By the All-Star break, he was among the league leaders in doubles and RBI.

Recent success, however, has gone to his head. Hall's looking to quadruple his \$1.1 million salary after he files for free agency in October. When I inform him that no major-league owner will give in to his salary demands—after all, he has been a major disappointment for most of his career—he tries to convince me that he's the Yankees' most valuable player.

"Let's say I drive in 100 runs this

"[Trump] lives on the edge, just like me. The recession hasn't scared him out of the business world.... I expect him to put some eggs in my basket."

year," he says. "Add last year's RBI totals to that, and I should be making \$29 million. Besides, history shows that the Yankees don't win with a right-handed hitting lineup. Yankee Stadium is tailor-made for lefty batters, which means that I'm more valuable than [teammate] Danny Tartabull."

Delivering that same speech to Yankees management in October will be Trump, whom Hall hired to represent him. Why would Hall trust a man who has had severe financial setbacks in recent years?

"[Trump] lives on the edge, just like me," he says. "The recession hasn't scared him out of the business world. He's slowly climbing to the top. I expect him to put some eggs in my basket."

Don't think for a minute that Hall is going to spend all those eggs on the nightlife or on exotic animals. He needs the money to take care of his older brother, Vernon, who has brain damage as a result of a drug overdose. Vernon was the baseball star of the family. He was an All-American at Port Byron High School in Lyons. He could have been the one in Yankee pinstripes.

"Unfortunately, drugs destroyed him," Hall says. "Sometimes he doesn't know my name. When I receive the big money, I'm going to make sure that he's taken care of."★

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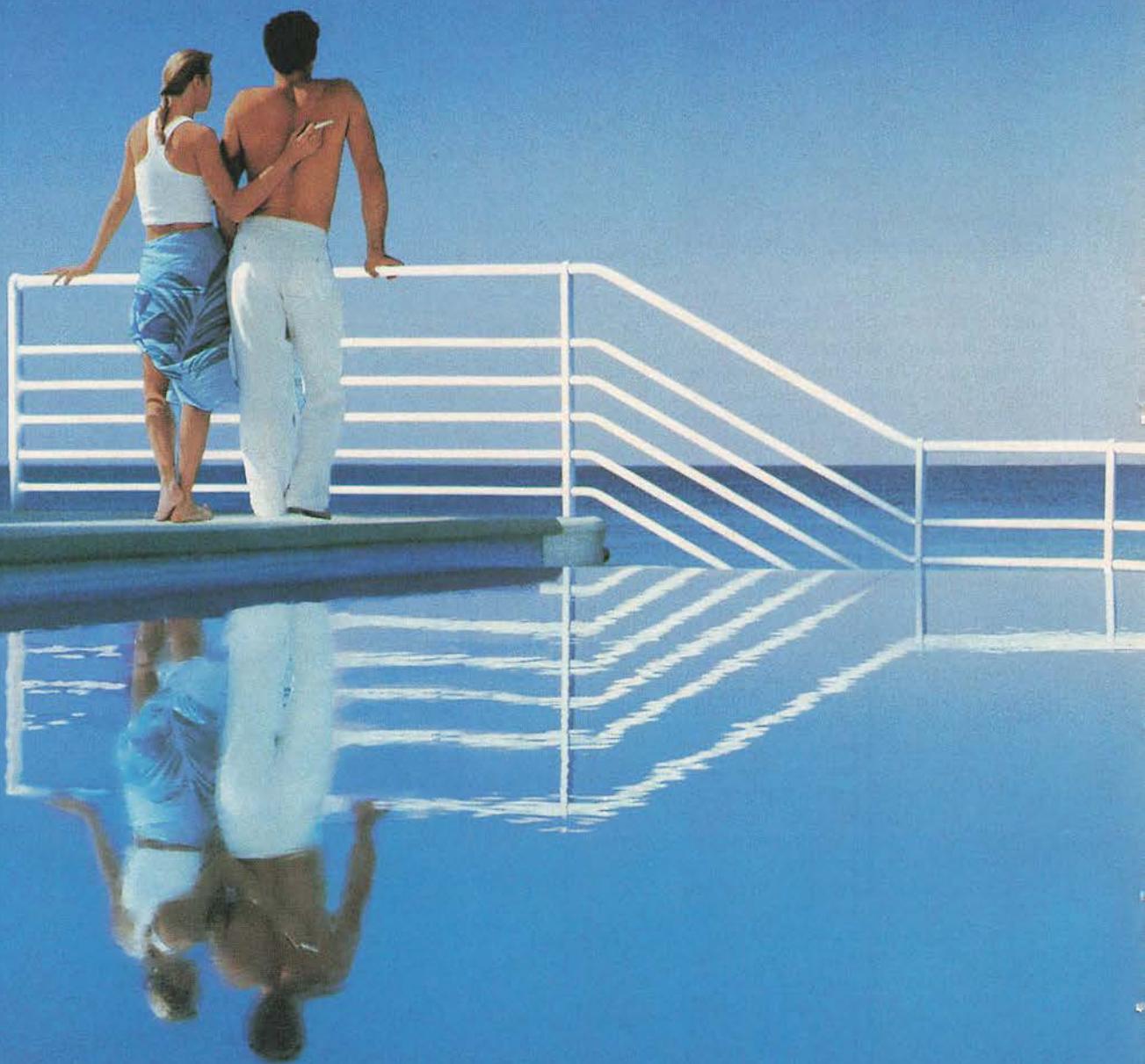
THE '92-93 NHL PREVIEW

NEXT MONTH IN

SPORT

THE PERFECT

Re·cess (Webster): A break from
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AFC EAST

SCOUTING REPORT

MIAMI BUMPS

THE BILLS

BY CHRIS MORTENSEN

1 MIAMI DOLPHINS So, what is the benefit of having a great quarterback? Dan Marino is wondering the same thing, considering the Dolphins have made only four playoff appearances since he took his first snap in 1983.

It could be that Don Shula's prowess as a personnel man does not measure up to his ability as a coach. Maybe that changes this year. Actually, there's no mystery as to why Marino hasn't been able to carry this club to a Super Bowl title. The Dolphins haven't run when they have to, and they haven't stopped the run either. And just as the Dolphins don't allow sacks on offense, they don't create them on defense.

Success could depend upon key acquisitions in the off-season, starting with running back Bobby Humphrey, acquired from Denver for fumble-happy Sammie Smith. Good move. Next, the Dolphins used two of the first 12 picks in the draft to address critical needs, taking Wisconsin cornerback Troy Vincent and Georgia Tech defensive end Marco Coleman. Good moves.

There remains some question as to how soft the Dolphins remain in the gut. But Shula won a major concession when he demanded that the front office suck it up and sign Miami's unsigned players. Done.

Sign in the Dolphins as the new AFC East champs.

Marino finally has a worthy supporting cast that's capable of usurping the Bills' hold on first.

2 BUFFALO BILLS The biggest moment in his life, and what does Thurman Thomas do? The duck walk. His encore? The dodo bird, no longer extinct.

The NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1991 misplaced his helmet and wasn't on the field when the Bills took their first snap in Super Bowl XXVI. It was all downhill from there, the Bills losing to Washington by a 37-24 it-could-have-been-much-worse count.

Their second successive Super Bowl defeat will be the shrinking force that humbles the Bills in time to fit their swollen heads inside their helmets. Man for man, no team in the AFC has better talent. Or bigger egos.

Unfortunately for the Bills, stumbling time. They'll have trouble adapting to the absence of offensive coordinator Ted Marchibroda, who liberated an explosive package of players. This off-season, Marchibroda was named the head coach of the Colts.

Defensively, the Bills ranked 27th last year. Much will hinge on the come-

MICHAEL B. REBEL



back of defensive end Bruce Smith, who had just 1½ sacks after being sidelined with knee problems. Questions remain about his knee, and you might as well throw in his head too.

Gosh, how the mighty have fallen.

3 NEW YORK JETS The Jets are oh-so-close as Bruce Coslett enters his third season as head coach. All they need is a quarterback and a running back. Tall order, but if they find them, they may just overtake the Bills (and the Dolphins might not be too far behind).

As badly as the Jets want to hand over the football to second-year quarterback Browning Nagle, veteran Ken O'Brien is the best they've got. But there's promise for a team that rallied to 8-8 and an impressive effort in its playoff loss to the Oilers.

Defensively, the Jets create chaos, which is something opponents fear. Offensively, the Jets are one big running back away from being a rushing machine. The work done in two years by offensive line coach Larry Beightol is unparalleled in the NFL, as the Jets finished tied for second in time of possession and No. 5 in rushing in '91. The disappointment has been running back Blair Thomas, whose 3.9-yards-per-carry average and three TDs falls short of the promise for a player who was chosen second overall in the 1990 draft.

4 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Dick MacPherson has given the NFL a breath of fresh air amid the stench of a sorry franchise. The 61-year-old coach proves that a spirit of enthusiasm can enlighten, even inspire, professional football players.

More power to him. Despite finally shedding Victor Kiam as owner, the Patriots will be hard-pressed to exceed the six wins they enjoyed in 1991. No longer will the Pats enjoy being overlooked by an opponent.

The Patriots, though, should remain competitive because, along with MacPherson's leadership, they have defensive coordinator Joe Collier, who has rebounded from his firing in Denver to prove he's one of the best at adjusting game plans on a weekly basis. His system is complex, but the Pats passed the test.

From a front seven standpoint, New England stacks up with anybody. It should get even better now that defen-

sive end Ray Agnew and outside linebacker Chris Singleton are in their third years. In the middle, Vincent Brown is a force. There are holes in the secondary with veterans Ronnie Lippett and Fred Marion gone.

Offensively, this team is coming together, believe it or not, under quarterback Hugh Millen. The running game could be explosive with second-year back Leonard Russell. The offensive line featured a top rookie last year in tackle Pat Harlow, who had back surgery in the off-season; it needs a similar performance from first-round draft pick Eugene Chung, a guard-tackle. If Chung finds the going tough, he need only turn to MacPherson for a lift.

5 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS If this franchise is ever going to start a significant climb, this is the year it begins. The Colts will be vastly improved, thanks to the hiring of Marchibroda as head coach, a terrific draft and the relief of a migraine headache known as Eric Dickerson.

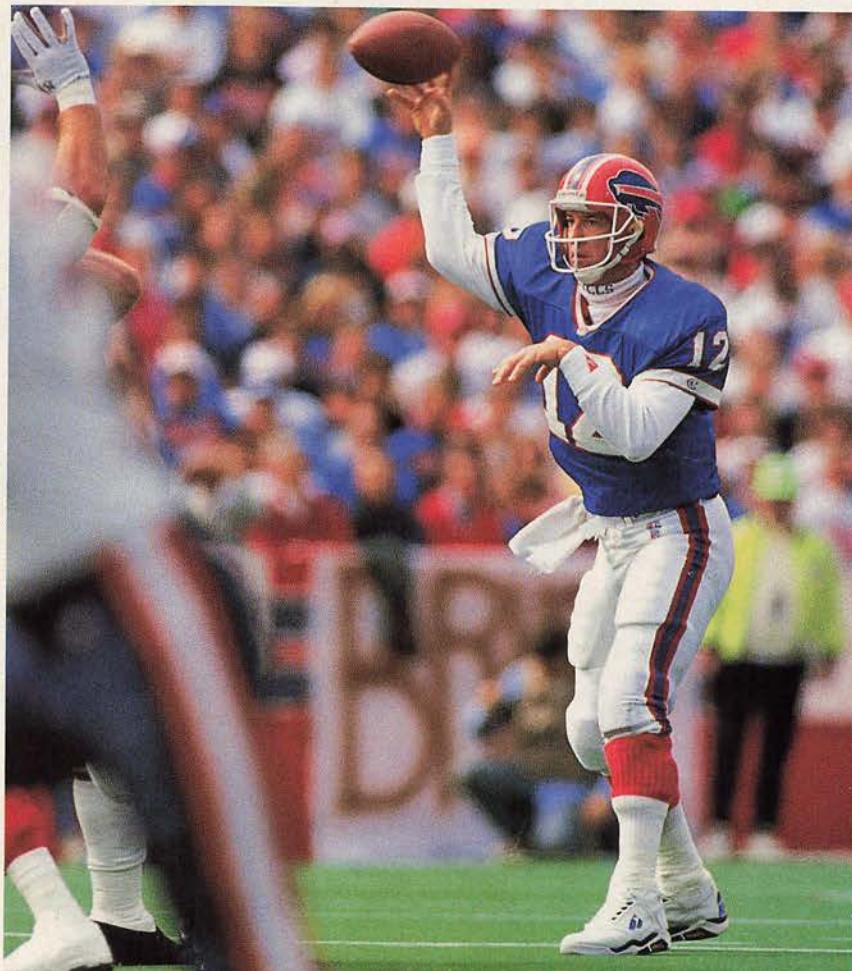
There will be growing pains, but the Colts will cause some hurt with a few

upsets. Defensively, the Colts improved big-time after using the first two picks of the draft on defensive tackle Steve Emtman and linebacker Quentin Coryatt. Emtman's intensity will juice up the club; Coryatt may just prove to be the better player of the two.

The Colts' best unrecognized move in the off-season was hiring Alex Gibbs as offensive line coach. Good coaching can improve a team's blocking by 50 percent. Watch it happen with the Colts this year.

Also watch quarterback Jeff George and the offense step it up under Marchibroda, who promises to bring his fast-breaking offensive style that worked wonders in Buffalo. George, with one of the great pure passing arms in the game, has the quick release to make it work.

Whether the Colts have enough firepower at running back and wide receiver remains to be seen. Marchibroda is confident that ex-Browns receiver Reggie Langhorne, a Plan B signee, will become a big-timer in his system. The running game has holes with Dickerson gone and Albert Bentley coming off knee surgery, but keep an eye on rookie running back Rodney Culver.



Kelly and the Bills will miss offensive guru Marchibroda, who's now coach of the Colts.

AFC CENTRAL

SCOUTING REPORT

COLOR THIS
DIVISION BROWN

1

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Coach Bill Belichick really is a pain in the rear. He has zero personality, and he is a hypocrite in his dealings with the media.

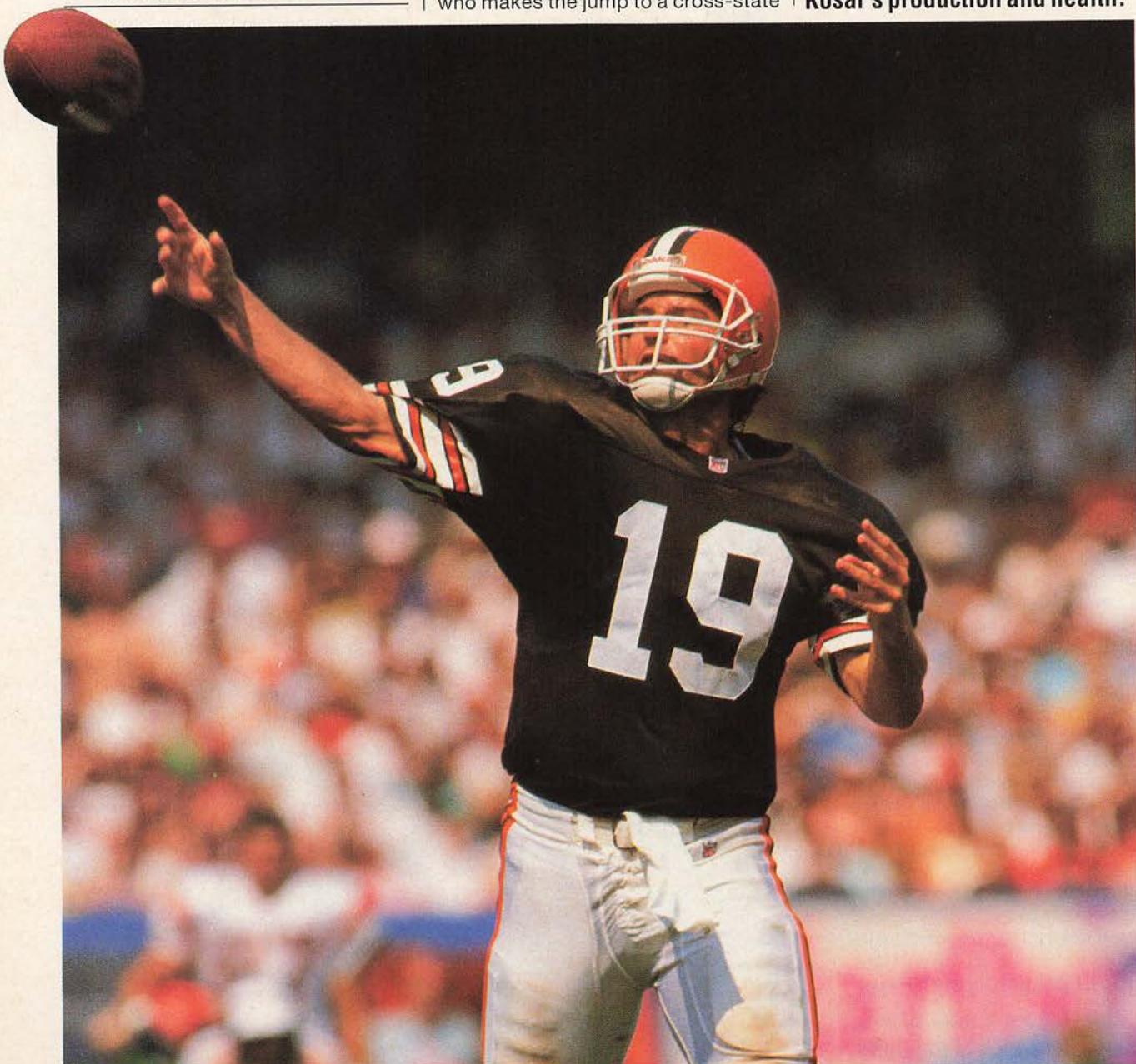
Begrudgingly, though, it must be said that he was quite prepared in his rookie year as the Browns' head coach. At the same rate of progress in this second-rate division, the Browns are our favorites to reclaim first place. The big reason? The defense will keep games close.

The defensive and offensive lines pack some wallop, but the running game—a must in this part of the country—will get a tremendous boost from the addition of old and new players. The old is James Brooks, the former Bengals back, who makes the jump to a cross-state

rival as a Plan B free agent. Everything that Eric Metcalf was not, Brooks will be. The new is first-round draft choice Tommy Vardell, the Stanford fullback, who was made to be a Cleveland Brown. Mud, snow, grass—it doesn't matter to Vardell, a touchdown machine and a hard-nosed runner.

This is all good news for quarterback Bernie Kosar, who was stripped of a couple of wide receivers, Reggie Langhorne and Brian Brennan. But the emphasis on the rushing attack will make Kosar more effective—and keep him healthy.

A renewed emphasis on the running attack will enhance Kosar's production and health.



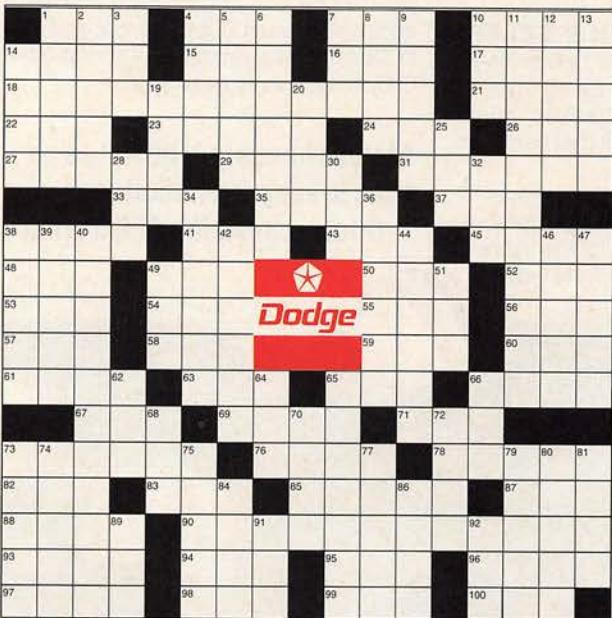
BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

The Dodge **SPORT** word

Puzzle

By Stanley Newman

"WORLD SERIES RECORDS"



Puzzle answers on page 16

Dodge Dakota LE Club Cab
5.2L Magnum V-8



Dodge Dakota LE Club Cab 5.2L Magnum V-8

Don't even bother comparing this pickup with compact Fords, Chevys and Toyotas. Because with that 230 hp V-8 pulling for it, Dakota over-powers even *full-size* half-tons. Delivering more horsepower and more available towing than a standard F150 or C1500 pickup. All in all, it's one very powerful story.

Advantage: Dodge



Down

1. Player deal
2. He played in 14 World Series
3. Rode the bench
4. Prohibited
5. Trammell and Kulwicki
6. The Senior ____ (National League)
7. Hole-in-one
8. Washington Senators' nickname
9. In first place: 2 wds.
10. Unser, Jr. and Sr.
11. He had 5 hits in one '82 Series game: 2 wds.
12. Former Giants coach Sherman
13. Bet acceptor
14. Kind of radio: 2 wds.
15. Eddie "The Walking Man" ____
16. Jockey's strap
17. Mr. Maxwell
18. Vegas
19. "The ____" (Lou Groza)
20. ___ hit (beaten-out grounder)
21. Series MVP in '56
22. Series MVP in '73 and '77
23. Nursery-rhyme dieter
24. Chicago airport
25. Last player to steal home in a World Series: 2 wds.
26. Youngest Series manager
27. Series MVP in '63 and '65
28. In the know
29. "ADVANTAGE: ____"
30. Third of an inning
31. Scouting group: Abbr.
32. Boston's nickname
33. Tennis' Shriver
34. Fox hunter's cry: 2 wds.
35. Boomer's stats: Abbr.
36. Pool-table top
37. Circus performer
38. The Big ____ (Villanova's conference)
39. Made a trade
40. ERA, essentially
41. Baseball broadcaster Tony
42. Old-time anesthetic
43. Come up to bat again
44. Chance's teammate
45. Take a risk
46. Louganis specialty
47. Crew-team equipment
48. Arizona Veterans Coliseum player
49. Dykstra or Barker
50. Pale Hose home, for short
51. Stead
52. That woman
53. Sign a coach
54. Injured, as ligaments
55. Either Griffey
56. Surgeon's workplaces: Abbr.
57. Tiny amount
58. Kind of wrestling
59. Pac-____ conference
60. "____ man answers, hang up!": 2 wds.
61. Association: Abbr.
62. Georgia ____ (the Yellow Jackets)
63. Barely beat
64. Wimbledon drink
65. Golf-shot blocker, maybe
66. Ernie Banks was one
67. Space-shuttle agency: Abbr.
68. Marked a ballot
69. NL Cy Young winner in '90
70. '60s Twins manager Sam
71. ____ as a beet: 2 wds.
72. What a batting-helmet flap covers
73. Misfiring shell
74. Chorus members
75. Zsa Zsa's sister
76. "Go anywhere" vehicles: Abbr.
77. He batted .750 in the '90 Series: 2 wds.
78. December 24th or 31st
79. That woman
80. Sign a coach
81. Injured, as ligaments
82. Either Griffey
83. Surgeon's workplaces: Abbr.
84. Part of TGIF

Across

1. Ted Turner superstation: Abbr.
2. Tic-____-toe
3. Pitch ____-hitter: 2 wds.
4. Get ____ on the back: 2 wds.
5. Neighborhood
6. Boxing Hall of Famer
7. ___ of corn (high fly)
8. Singing syllables: 2 wds.
9. He had 13 hits in the '86 Series: 2 wds.
10. Mope
11. First-ball thrower of the '40s: Abbr.
12. Bat-weight unit
13. Outfield material
14. Golf ball's position
15. Training-table offerings
16. Curt Flood filed a famous one in '70
17. Youngest pitcher to hurl a Series shutout
18. Part of ACC: Abbr.
19. "____ out—make up your mind!": 2 wds.
20. Vikings wide receiver Lewis
21. Drunkards
22. Comedy-club routine
23. "____! A mouse!" (exclamation)
24. Feeling happy
25. Beta Kappa
26. NHL Rookie of the Year in '67
27. Sea dog
28. Jim Jima
29. Fordham athlete
30. Soldier-show sponsor: Abbr.
31. '60s catcher Triandos
32. Tiny amount
33. Kind of wrestling
34. Pac-____ conference
35. "____ man answers, hang up!": 2 wds.
36. Association: Abbr.
37. Georgia ____ (the Yellow Jackets)
38. Barely beat
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56. Injured, as ligaments
57. Either Griffey
58. Surgeon's workplaces: Abbr.
59. Part of TGIF

2

HOUSTON OILERS This is getting to be an old story, isn't it? Few teams in the NFL have better talent than the Oilers, but management squabbles are getting the best of this club.

The careless loss of veteran wide receiver Drew Hill punctuates the Oilers' step down from the division perch. Hill symbolized leadership, stability and excellence. He wasn't the breakaway threat of years past, but to allow him to leave via Plan B (to ex-coach Jerry Glanville, of all people) was a blow to team morale.

The traditional contract disputes already had this team down. Which doesn't necessarily mean the Oilers are finished as contenders. Quarterback Warren Moon, who had his own contract problem to work out, is a superstar. But he needs a running game, and unless Lorenzo White can deliver, Moon is going to get beat up some more, an unhealthy prescription for a 35-year-old passer.

Defensively, the Oilers are underrated; they're championship-caliber, for sure.

Finally, coach Jack Pardee will not pull this team above troubled waters with charisma. Then again, he's honest and trustworthy, which could be the antidote the Oilers need to rid themselves of the poison.

3

CINCINNATI BENGALS Cincinnati used to be a normal place, but things began to happen that remain unexplained, perhaps only to be cleared up on the next "Geraldo."

It may have started when somebody named Marge Schott bought the city's baseball team. The football team put stripes on its helmets and hired a coach who earned the nickname of Wicky Wacky.

Now there's a brand new baby—er, coach—in town. The Bengals hired somebody who wasn't even born when tackle Anthony Munoz first wrapped his big hands around a milk bottle. Think about this: Dave Shula was born in 1959, only two years before Bengals quarterback Boomer Esiason entered the same world, already slightly off rotation because a teen-ager named Sam Wyche was walking it.

Wyche has spun off to coach Tampa Bay, and Shula has become the youngest coach in the NFL at 33. Mike Brown, the Bengals' general manager, is obviously hoping for some of that Don Shula magic. Dave Shula's track record as an assistant coach isn't all that glowing, but here he is anyway.

The most promising thing about Shula's first steps as a coach is the staff of assistants he has assembled. It's a dandy, with the biggest challenge falling to new defensive coordinator Ron Lynn.

The Bengals were 3-13 under Wyche last season, but they have talent. It's up to Shula and staff to push the right buttons. The Bengals plan to run the same offense with the same terminology. They have the same quarterback in Esiason. It's tough to figure if they'll get the same results because there never was a same ness—or saneness—about this club.

4

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The prospect of Chuck Noll finally walking away after 23 years as the Steelers' coach didn't sound all that bad...until it happened.

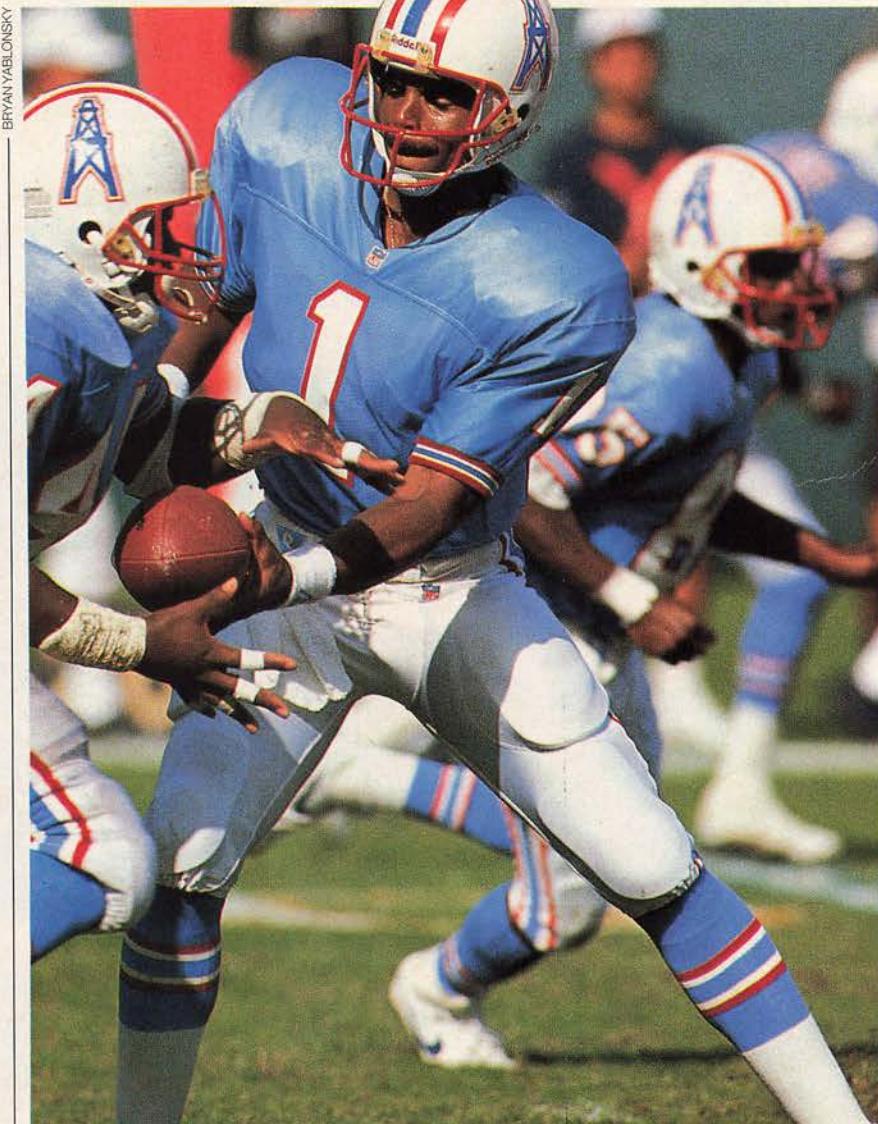
Bill Cowher, 35, gets the honor of filling Noll's shoes. True, those footsteps seem a little smaller with the more distance that has grown between

Super Bowl rings, but Cowher's job is a big one.

The most interesting change Cowher made was to hire ex-Giants assistant Ron Erhardt as offensive coordinator. Erhardt, who once coached New England, brings a hard-nosed style that will make better use of tight end Eric Green as a receiver and blocker. It's also an offense that is decidedly more simple than the one taught by Joe Walton the past two years. "It's so simple, I think I could teach it to [sportswriters]," Erhardt says.

Nothing is that simple. The toughest job for Cowher and Erhardt will be to choose between Bubby Brister and Neil O'Donnell at quarterback. Trust us—O'Donnell should get the job.

Moon's hands will be full as he tries to keep the tumultuous Oilers among the AFC's elite.

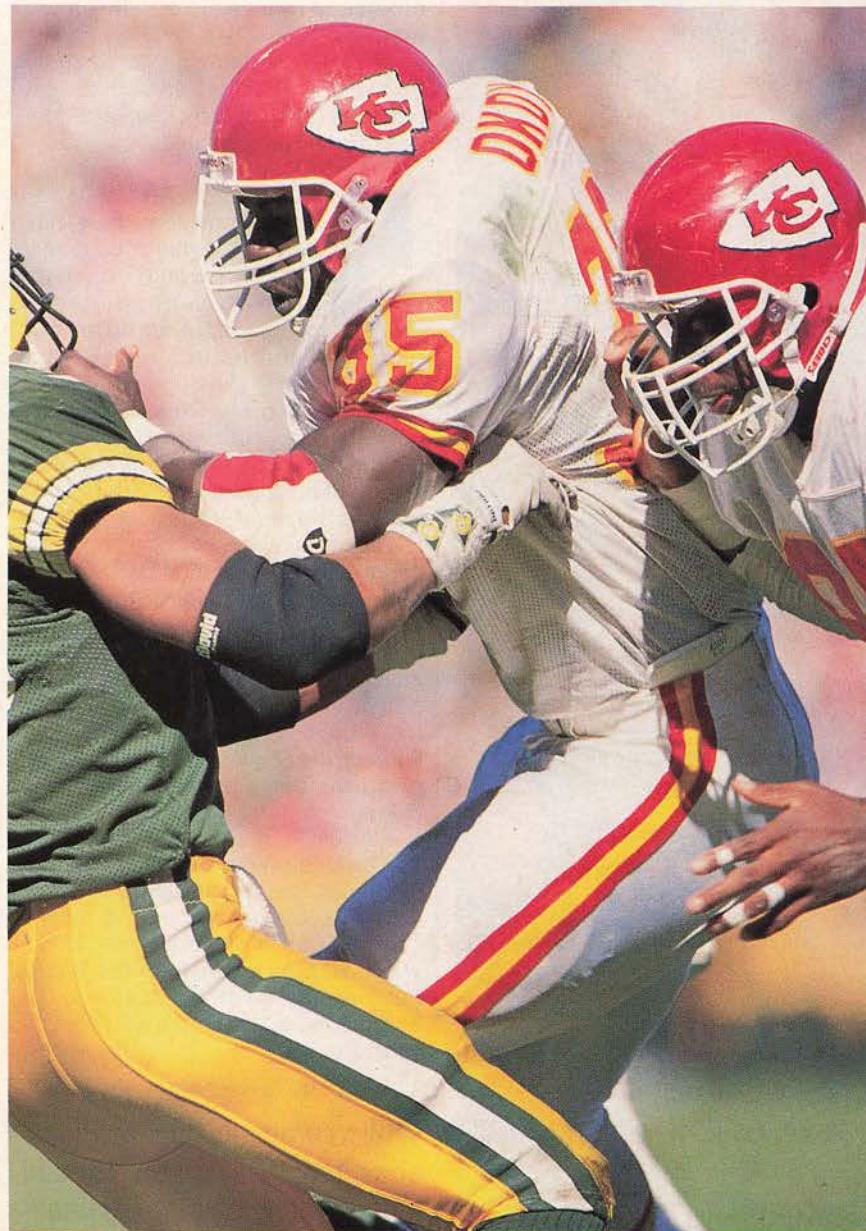


AFC

WEST

SCOUTING REPORT

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS—THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



1

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS Four years on the job now, Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson and head coach Marty Schottenheimer are about to fulfill their dreams. They will win the AFC West and go on to play in Super Bowl XXVII.

Dave Krieg, the quarterback of a Super Bowl team? Not so far-fetched. Remember, Redskins quarterback Mark Rypien was just as unlikely a candidate more than a year ago.

Krieg, the ex-Seahawk, was signed as a Plan B free agent, and he'll perform beautifully in an offense that can punish opponents. The backfield trio of Christian Okoye, Barry Word and Harvey Williams will protect Krieg. Williams will break off longer runs in his second season. Krieg also will enjoy the healthy return of veteran Stephone Paige, and second-year re-

ceiver Tim Barnett will arrive as one of the league's bright young stars.

The defense, meanwhile, is stronger with the return of inside linebacker Percy Snow, out in '91 with knee surgery. On the outside, they don't come any better than Derrick Thomas.

The big task for the Chiefs will be to fix their once-feared secondary. First-round draft pick Dale Carter's performance at cornerback will be vital, though not as critical in an AFC West that has suddenly transformed into a muscle division. No, for the Chiefs to advance to the Super Bowl they must stop Buffalo's Jim Kelly, Houston's Warren Moon and Miami's Dan Marino—and they will.

2

DENVER BRONCOS Where there is John Elway, there is always a chance for a miracle. Elway doesn't dazzle the NFL with statistics, but there's no reason to believe he won't be up to his old magic this season. No quarterback plays with the playground mentality of Elway, a style that drives defensive coaches nuts.

The Broncos were AFC West champs last year because the defense ranked first in the conference in numerous categories. Defense and Elway, mainly. It won't work as well this year, because the schedule is tougher, but it'd be dangerous to underestimate the Broncos.

Coach Dan Reeves neglected the offense when he passed on a number of receivers and used the club's first pick in the draft to select UCLA quarterback Tommy Maddox, Elway's heir apparent, a decision that raises the issue of the tenuous relationship between Reeves and Elway. Reeves fired Elway's favorite offensive coordinator, Mike Shanahan. With the selection of Maddox, it may not take much to rupture the pipeline between coach and quarterback. Elway showed great restraint in reaction to the moves; he recognizes that Denver is a wonderful mate, and, anyway, who can imagine Elway without the Broncos?

3

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS Jay Schroeder and Todd Marinovich. Sorry, it doesn't work. The Raiders just about have it all, but they don't have the quarterback.

Marinovich, the redhead left-hander, started the last two games (one good, one bad) against the Chiefs last

Okoye and the Chiefs will finally bull their way to a division title and the Super Bowl.

year and appeared to be a cinch to unseat the uninspiring Schroeder this season. But as leaderless as the Raiders are with Schroeder, they know they are walking a thin line in trying to depend upon Marinovich, who had an NFL-administered drug test turn up positive in the off-season. One mess-up means suspension. A quarterback has to be stable, and Marinovich is not.

The Raiders did not let us down in the off-season, however. Al Davis finally made the Hall of Fame, but not before he brought in a future Hall of Fame running back—Eric Dickerson, who gets one

last shot at restoring a legacy that was shredded in Indianapolis. We say he'll break the 1,000-yard barrier.

The Raiders' defense also promises to deliver for Davis ("The quarterback must go down...and he must go down h-a-h-d"). Teams will not score many points on the Raiders, but a handful will again outscore them.

4 SANDIEGO CHARGERS Owner Alex Spanos thinks he's going to the playoffs. Two words: Dream on.

Spanos barely gave new coach Bobby Ross any breathing room with his prediction that this club was playoff-bound. Ross was an excellent choice as coach, but give him a break, Mr. Big Mouth Owner.

The man on the hot seat actually is Bobby Beathard, the expensive general manager who has gotten too caught up in cleaning house. The Chargers still lack the talent to overcome the AFC West pack. Quarterback John Friesz had a good sophomore season, but the man responsible for that—ex-coach Dan Henning—isn't around.

The most interesting change was the hiring of a defensive coordinator, 65-year-old Bill Arnsparger, the genius behind Don Shula in former days. Arnsparger was recruited off the University of Florida campus, where he served as athletic director. If Arnsparger regains his magic, then Spanos has a chance to realize his dream—a year from now.

The best thing Arnsparger has going for him is linebacker Junior Seau, who plays the game with reckless abandon, sort of how Spanos thinks.

5 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS Seriously, Tom Flores must have been the victim of blackmail. Who else would coach this team? Go ahead, name a couple of players on the club. Flores is a good coach—the Raiders haven't been to the Super Bowl since he left—but so was Chuck Knox, who got the most out of this club.

The most intriguing aspect of the Seahawks, aside from Flores' comeback, is the quarterback competition. It's between a pair of first-round draft picks, second-year man Dan McGwire and fifth-year man Kelly Stouffer. But don't expect much.

The Seahawks acquired a former star, a renegade of sorts, in ex-Vikings defensive tackle Keith Millard. If Millard has recovered from two years of knee surgery, the Seahawks could have a terrific front four, especially with Cortez Kennedy reaching Pro Bowl status at one tackle.

The Seahawks also acquired running back Reuben Mayes, who sat out last year because he said he was "burned out." For a brief time, Mayes was a wonderful back for the Saints, but that was several injuries ago. The only place the Seahawks will finish this year is last. ★

With a surgically repaired shoulder, Elway's going to need better protection from his line.



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Bills 83 Reed Falcons 80 Rison
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Cap size 6 1/4 6 1/2 7 1/4 7 1/2 7 1/4 7 3/4 7 1/2 7 3/4

Postage & Handling

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Head Size (in.) 21 1/4 21 1/2 22 22 1/2 22 1/4 23 1/4 23 1/2 23 1/4

Cap size 6 1/4 6 1/2 7 1/4 7 1/2 7 3/4 7 1/2 7 3/4



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Heat	4	Seikaly	Nets	44	Coleman
Spurs	32	Elliott	Warriors	17	Mullin
Hornets	2	Robinson	Suns	7	Johnson
Jazz	32	Malone	Knicks	33	Ewing
Bulls	23	Jordan	Rockets	34	Ojaivuon
			Pistons	10	Rodman

Navy	A	DE	K
Nebraska	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
N. Carolina	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
N. Carolina St.	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Notre Dame	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Ohio St.	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Oklahoma	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Oklahoma St.	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Oregon	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Penn St.	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Pittsburgh	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
S. Carolina	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
SMU	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
St. John's	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Stanford	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Syracuse	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Tennessee	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Texas	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Texas A&M	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Texas Tech	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
UCLA	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
UNLV	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
USC	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Vanderbilt	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Virginia	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
Washington	ABC	DEFGHIJKLMLNOPQRSTUVWX	
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Cap size 6 1/4 6 1/2 7 1/4 7 1/2 7 3/4 7 1/2 7 3/4

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NFC EAST

SCOUTING REPORT

PHILADELPHIA STORY
BY BARRY MEISEL



BOB EBEL/SPORTS PICTURES

1 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Yes, they'll finally win a play-off game. Three, in fact. Defense wins championships, and there is no more intimidating front seven in football today than Reggie White, Seth Joyner and company.

Finishing first in the NFL against the rush, first against the pass and first in total defense was the reason behind Philly's 10-6 record last season despite their loss of quarterback Randall Cunningham for the year in the opening week.

Cunningham's surgically repaired left knee probably won't be 100 percent when the season begins, but 90 to 95 percent of Randall's running, throwing and improvisational abilities is far better than 100 percent of most of his peers—

if the Eagles develop an efficient running game. That's the key to their Super Bowl hopes. They rushed for an NFL-worst 3.1 yards per carry behind an unsettled offensive line in '91. That's why they signed free-agent Herschel Walker, who was released by the Vikings during the off-season. If the 30-year-old Walker still wants to play, he can be a force in this league. Last season, he rushed for 825 yards and scored 10 touchdowns despite the Vikings' misuse of his talents. Philadelphia used its top draft pick to take Alabama running back Siran Stacy in the second round. He lacks game-breaking speed but can run and catch.

Want a trend? Four teams allowed fewer points in '91, but only the 49ers finished as hot as the Eagles, who went 7-1 after a 3-5 start and missed the playoffs only because of a 25-13 loss to the Cowboys at the Vet in Week 15. Philly won't make the same mistake again. Not as long as Randall stays healthy and the defense stays ferocious.

2 DALLAS COWBOYS

Why didn't the NFL move its annual draft from New York to Texas the last three years? Half the players picked ended up with Dallas, or so it seemed, thanks to Minnesota and the Walker fiasco. Yes, the Cowboys finally exhausted their supply of choices acquired in that one-sided blockbuster deal of '89.

Head coach Jimmy Johnson's climb up the ladder has been meteoric: 1-15 in '89, 7-9 in '90, 11-5 and an NFC wild-card berth last year. There's no reason to doubt another double-digit-win season, not with an offensive nucleus of Troy Aikman's arm, Emmitt Smith's legs, Michael Irvin's hands and Steve Beuerlein's head (Beuerlein went 4-0 to end the regular season after Aikman hurt a knee). Well, OK, maybe there're two reasons: a pass defense that ranked 23rd in the NFL and a pass rush that generated the third-fewest sacks, 23. But Dallas parlayed some picks to tab Russell Maryland first overall in '91, and the defensive tackle became an effective starter halfway through the year. This time, Dallas attended to the secondary by grabbing DBs Kevin Smith of Texas A&M and Darren Woodson of Arizona State in the first two rounds.

3 WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Repeating's too tough. It's hard to look at the roster of the Redskins and not predict another NFC East title. Joe Gibbs did, after all, get the '83

Emmitt Smith will carry Dallas into the playoffs again.



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'Skins back to the Super Bowl (which they lost to the Raiders) after having won it all in '82. But he also suffered a year-after 7-9 flop in '88 following Washington's '87 championship run.

Super Bowl XXVI MVP Mark Rypien is the real thing, but the Hogs, who were a gritty and venerable bunch last year as they kept the world away from Rypien and paved Earnest Byner's and Ricky Ervin's paths, are a year older. And in this megabucks era, it's hard to stay as hungry and as focused the year after a team cashes in.

Still, Washington scored an NFL-high 485 points and added Heisman Trophy-winning receiver Desmond Howard to The Posse. The defense, led by end Charles Mann, linebacker Wilber

Marshall and cornerback Darrell Green, yielded 224 points, second-fewest in the league.

The Redskins are too deep and Gibbs is too good a coach to allow a complete nose dive. Watch Washington fall four games off last year's 14-2 and still squeeze out a playoff berth.

4 NEW YORK GIANTS After last year's disappointing 8-8 Super Bowl season—after, coach Ray Handley promised that he'd no longer be a caretaker of Bill Parcells' Giants. So before his second year under Gotham's unforgiving guillotine had even begun, Handley had fired two assistants and prompted a third to resign;

promoted quarterbacks coach Jim Fassel to offensive coordinator; jugged his veteran offensive line; changed the role of the fullback; promised quarterback Jeff Hostetler a more dynamic, less predictable attack; invited new defensive coordinator Rod Rust to introduce a new defensive scheme; and vowed to eliminate the team's star system.

Oh, some things remained the same. Lawrence Taylor still missed mini-camp. LT, who says this will be his last season, no longer single-handedly wreaks havoc on NFL offenses. His decline from superhuman to standard all-pro to simply excellent mirrors the Giants' slide from dominance. They've both passed their prime. No matter how many changes Handley concocts, it'll take a few solid drafts and perhaps a complete overhaul before the Giants become a Super Bowl threat again.

They've got a budding star in running back Rodney Hampton, a dynamic all-purpose threat in David Meggett, and the world's best No. 2 quarterback in Phil Simms. Why is he still not the starter? Choosing Hostetler was Handley's first big move a year ago. This year's changes won't prevent another 8-8 finish...or worse.

5 PHOENIX CARDINALS It's hard to imagine the Cardinals playing gritty, grimy, slug-it-out NFC East football in the Valley of the Sun. But after 5-11 and 4-12 records his first two seasons as head coach, Joe Bugel has decided that the only way to be taken seriously in the league's toughest division is to roll up his sleeves and get dirty.

First, he fired offensive-line coach Tom Lovat and replaced him with USC line coach John Matsko. Then, he decided he'd get more involved with the front five, which is anchored by three-time Pro Bowl left tackle Louis Sharpe. He signed Plan B free-agent tackle Mark May, whom Bugel coached in Washington. Next, he overhauled the blocking scheme. And, finally, he made two other nice Plan B pickups in tight end Butch Rolle, from Buffalo, and linebacker Jessie Small, from Philadelphia.

The moves might make a difference, but not enough to lift the Cards into contention—not even with the return of quarterback Timm Rosenbach, who missed all of last season after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery that was as serious as Cunningham's. Rosenbach's rehabbing nicely and is expected back by the start of the season.

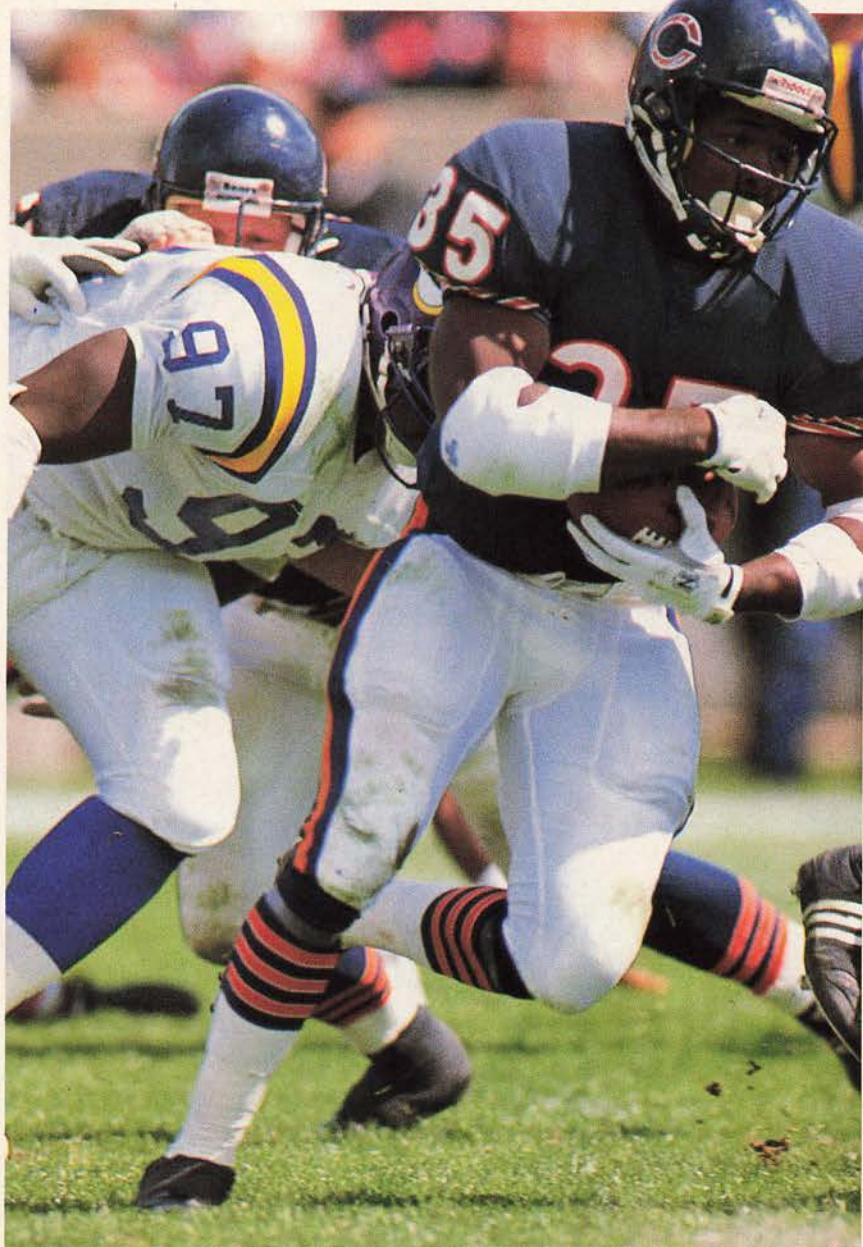
Hampton is a rising star, but the Giants are slipping.



NFC CENTRAL

SCOUTING REPORT

BLACK AND BLUE AND THE BEARS



1 CHICAGO BEARS The defending divisional champs run 'n' shoot, and the three other Central challengers welcome new coaches from offensive backgrounds. Which all plays into the strength of the Bears.

This is middle linebacker Mike Singletary's 12th and last season, but the Bears are already showing signs of youth. Second-year pro Chris Zorich is ready to supplant William Perry at defensive tackle. The unsigned, overweight Fridge didn't show up for mini-camp. He finished '91 at 380 pounds, and it's doubtful he'll melt down to Mike Ditka's prescribed 315.

Chicago's traditional ground game was slowed last year due to nagging season-long injuries to gifted running

back Neal Anderson and underrated fullback Brad Muster. Both are healthy, which should make it easier for Jim Harbaugh. Nobody fears the Bears' passing game, but it's getting better. Tom Waddle is an overachieving wideout, and Harbaugh, who last year became the first Bears quarterback since 1981 to start all 16 games, has had five years to learn the NFL game.

When the Bears won their first four games a year ago by a combined 14 points, they looked ready to wilt. When they dropped their next two to Buffalo and Washington, respectively, they proved they weren't ready to beat the big boys. But this resilient crew earned a wild card at 11-5. This time, that'll be good enough for a division crown.

2 DETROIT LIONS The emotional bond forged by Mike Utley's tragic neck injury, the Cinderella saga of backup quarterback Erik Kramer, and the incomparable abilities of Barry Sanders carried the Lions to a 12-4 record, the NFC Central title, a startling 38-6 playoff rout of Dallas and a berth in the NFC Championship Game, where their heart-tugging year finally ended.

Tears fell again in May when defensive-backfield coach Len Fontes, older brother of head coach Wayne Fontes, died of a heart attack. Sadly, it's difficult to imagine the Lions winning for Len Fontes the way they won for Utley: An 8-8 mark seems more probable.

Despite their muscular record in '91, the Lions didn't dominate teams. Their offense ranked 17th, their defense, 15th, and now they've got an unanswered quarterback question. Kramer or Rodney Peete, who lost his starting job when he tore an Achilles tendon in Week 8? And what about '89 Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware, a first-round pick in '90, who has yet to make an impact?

One significant decision already made was the release of 12-year-veteran place-kicker Eddie Murray, Detroit's all-time leading scorer. The Lions decided they wanted a younger leg to stand on and drafted Washington State's Jason Hanson in the second round.

3 MINNESOTA VIKINGS If ever there was a team that needed to start anew, it's the Vikes. Out went coach Jerry Burns; in comes Dennis Green. Then out went Herschel Walker,

Anderson must stay healthy for Bears to regain the division title .

signalling the end of one of the most disastrous trades in NFL history.

Green arrived from Stanford with an offensive background, but he is preaching defense. He has some serious rebuilding to do. A feared unit that was first in total defense in '88 and '89 fell to 13th in '90 (the year that defensive end Keith Millard first wrecked his knee) and 14th in '91. Before the draft, Millard was dealt to Seattle for a second-round pick. Safety Joey Browner, who saw his streak of six straight Pro Bowls ended in '91, is in danger of losing his starting job. Chris Doleman still is Pro Bowl caliber, but he's not the player he was when Millard was around.

Welcome to another QB question. Green has opened up the job to Rich Gannon and Wade Wilson, and we know that preseason quarterback controversies rarely are pretty. Green signed seven Plan B free agents, including running back Roger Craig, who'll get a shot at some of the carries Walker left behind. But the Vikings like Terry Allen, whose 4.7-yards-per-rush average was the highest among NFC backs with at least 100 carries.

They were 8-8 in '91, so the Vikings don't have that far to go. But it's not easy remaking a team's personality. With Herschel, the Vikings underachieved; they need a new beginning. The record might not change in '92, but the attitude will.

4 **GREEN BAY PACKERS** New head coach Mike Holmgren hopes to remake the Packers in the image of his former team, the 49ers. The Packers were 4-12 last year, but they're not as weak as some think. Not when you consider they were 2-6 in games decided by four points or less. Not when you consider they've added Florida State's Terrell Buckley—and promptly penciled him in as the starting right corner—to a defense that finished 10th in the NFL and that promises to play a more attacking style better suited to outside linebacker Tony Bennett's strengths.

Holmgren was a terrific offensive coordinator in San Francisco. He and new coordinator Sherman Lewis, who was Holmgren's receivers coach with the Niners, have to restructure an attack that was 24th overall last year and hasn't had a 1,000-yard rusher since 1978. Holmgren and Lewis hope to revive free-agent running back Greg Bell's career and have tried to bolster their offensive line by acquiring right

tackle Tootie Robbins from Phoenix for a sixth-round pick and moving Tony Mandarich to right guard.

Don Majkowski's the quarterback, at least for now. What Green Bay needs is for him to conjure some of the magic from '89. The Pack sent a No. 1 to Atlanta for Brent Favre, who's the future, unless long-shot project Ty Detmer proves virtually everybody wrong. Playoffs? Not this year. But 8-8 is within reach.

5 **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** New head coach Sam Wyche brings his no-huddle offense from Cincinnati to the Bucs. Tampa's suffering fans might not go home happier, but they'll get home sooner.

Wyche's swashbuckling style will improve the Bucs' offensive attack. Anyway, it can't get much worse. Vinny Testaverde was the NFL's lowest-rated starting QB in '91, but to offset his color-

blindness, he'll wear rose-colored contact lenses this year. That should at least brighten his outlook. Wyche signed veteran free agent Steve DeBerg as insurance in case Testaverde can't cut it.

Don't blame Tampa Bay's 3-13 record last year on its defense. One reason the defense allowed the NFC's second-highest point total (365) was that it was on the field longer per game (33:03) than any other defensive unit in the NFC. And the Bucs committed an NFL-high 47 giveaways. Defensive end Keith McCants and outside linebacker Broderick Thomas can play. So can wide receiver Lawrence Dawsey, the NFC Offensive Rookie of the Year in '91. If right tackle Charles McRae proves he deserved to be the first offensive lineman taken in the '91 draft (seventh overall), and if Plan B pickup Bruce Reimers (from the Bengals) works at left guard, Testaverde might not be running for his life all year. And then the Bucs might win six games.



After a banner '91 season, Sanders and the Lions eye another postseason berth.

NFC WEST

SCOUTING REPORT

THE NINERS ARE BACK

1 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

How about a Philly-San Fran championship game? Look for the two best NFC teams that didn't make the playoffs last year to be the conference's two '92 kingpins.

The Niners finished last season by winning their last six games, three against playoff teams (Kansas City, New Orleans and Chicago). The problem was their 4-6 start.

Joe Montana's throwing elbow looked ready to go in minicamp, and an arthroscopic procedure in May cleaned out scar tissue. A healthy Montana means coach George Seifert will be faced with a unique predicament: three potential No. 1 quarterbacks. Steve Bono's content to play backup, but Steve Young isn't. Don't be surprised if one is dealt.

Jerry Rice and John Taylor are the game's best 1-2 receiving punch, but San Francisco needs to find a backfield that can run the ball. Dexter Carter and Tom Rathman get first crack.

Linebacker/defensive end Charles Haley played hurt last year, one reason that he was limited to seven sacks. He should be a Pro Bowl-caliber menace again, following off-season shoulder surgery, especially if linebacker Tim Harris (who underwent a successful alcohol-rehab program) returns to the form that prompted the Niners to acquire him from Green Bay.

It's been two years since San Francisco fell a Matt Bahr field goal short of its third straight Super Bowl berth. If it's

not the Eagles in '92, look west.

2 ATLANTA FALCONS Nobody swaggers like these guys. Jerry Glanville's inimitable bunch backed it up in '91 though. Did you know they were the only team to go unbeaten on the road in its division? Did you know that for the second straight year linebacker Jessie Tuggle led the NFL in tackles?

You knew how good the Falcons were. If Deion Sanders wasn't telling you, Tim McTyer or No. 1 fan Hammer was. Atlanta's biggest problem—other than Elvis promising to be a no-show for the opening of the new Georgia Dome—is that Sanders may be as good an outfielder and hitter as he is a cornerback and returner.

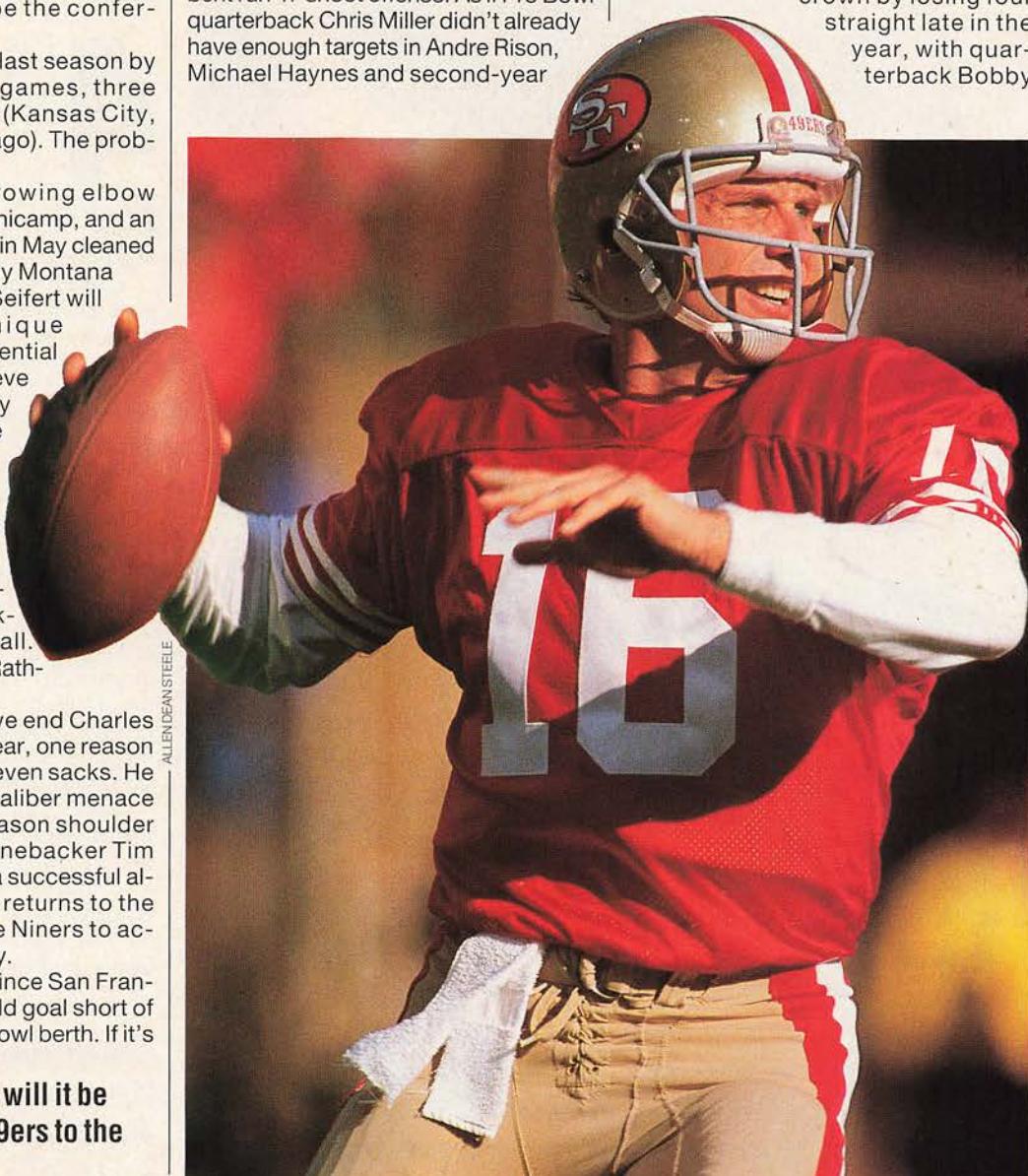
The Falcons 10-6 finish in '91 and wild-card upset of the Saints were no flukes. They score points with that hell-bent run 'n' shoot offense. As if Pro Bowl quarterback Chris Miller didn't already have enough targets in Andre Rison, Michael Haynes and second-year

blue-chip prospect Mike Pritchard, he now has Drew Hill, grabbed off Houston's Plan B list.

The Falcons need a running game, which was one reason they traded up in the first round to draft tackle Bob Whitfield. They want to give the ball to 1990 No. 1 pick Steve Broussard, who spent time on injured reserve last year yet led the team in rushing with 449 yards.

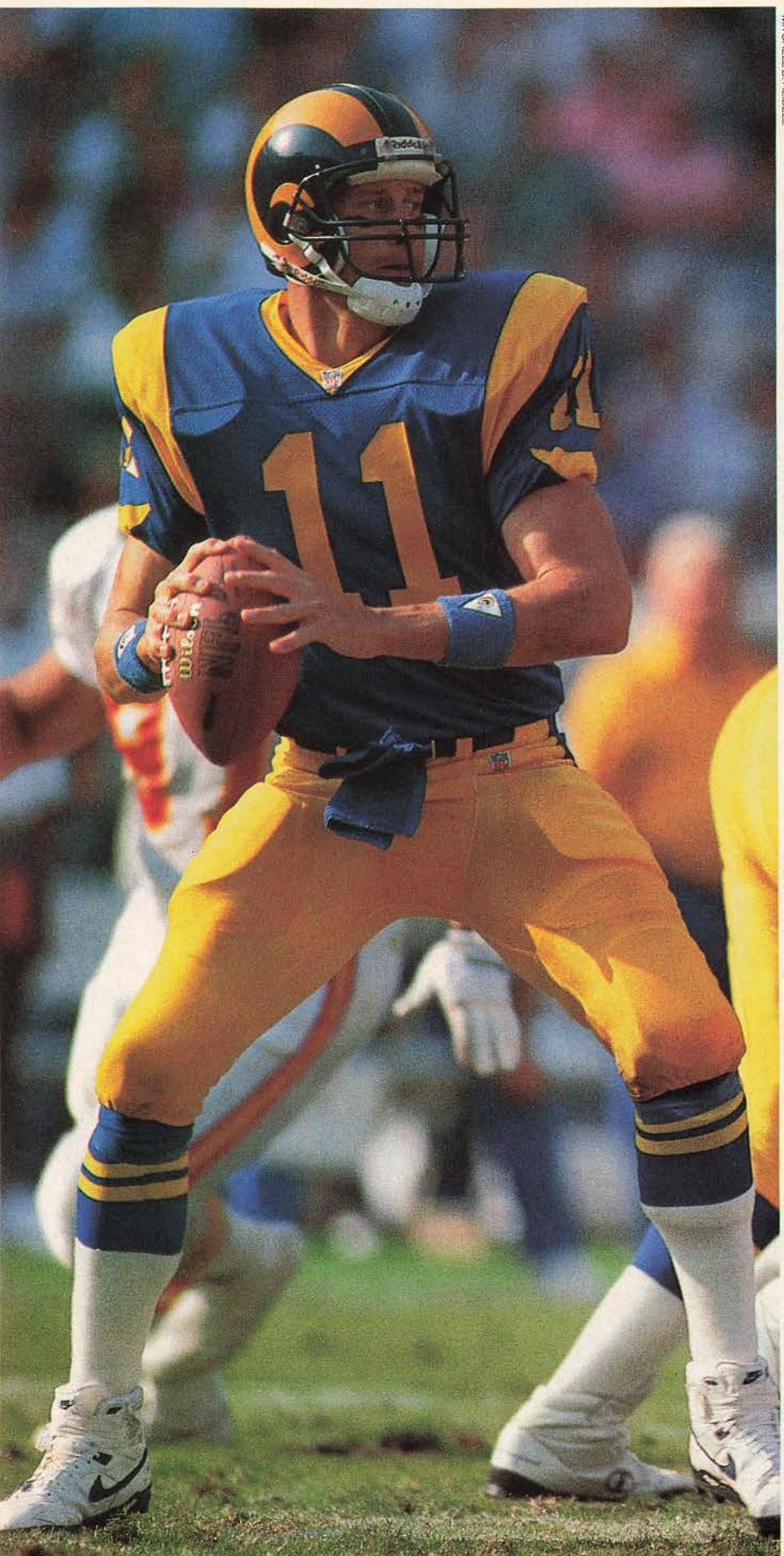
Another 10-win season won't be easy, though, because the Falcons won't catch anybody by surprise. They're too loud for that.

3 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS The Saints yielded the fewest points in the NFL, 211. They tied Washington for the best take-away ratio, plus 18. They opened the season 7-0 and 9-1. Yet they couldn't even call their season a success, not after nearly blowing the NFC West crown by losing four straight late in the year, with quarterback Bobby



ALLEN DEAN STEELE

Montana's back, but will it be enough to take the 49ers to the Super Bowl?



WILLIAM R. REED

Hebert sidelined because of an injury to his throwing shoulder, and not after losing at home—with Hebert back—to the rival Falcons, 27-20, in the first round of the playoffs.

Hardly a confidence builder for '92.

New Orleans' ravenous defense (second against the rush, second against the pass, second overall) put its offense on the field for 33:58 per game in '91, highest average time of possession in the NFL. But with Hebert out seven games and the running game hampered by injuries, the Saints lacked the ability to knock out their tougher opponents.

Oh, the defense tried. Pat Swilling led the NFL with 17 sacks. Rickey Jackson added 11½. But late-season injuries in the secondary hurt too. It'll take a crisp year from Hebert, a large contribution from No. 1 draft pick Vaughn Dunbar, the running back from Indiana, and another dominating year by the defense for the Saints to match last year's 11-5.

4 **LOS ANGELES RAMS** The Rams parted company with returning head coach Chuck Knox 15 years ago. So maybe you can go home again. In Ground Chuck II, the Rams will have to find a way to resurrect: Jim Everett, the running game, a pass rush and the ability to win a divisional game.

Everett's confidence was shot last year. He threw 20 interceptions, more than any quarterback other than Warren Moon. Robert Delpino led with 688 rushing yards, only 3.2 per carry. The Rams averaged only 80.3 rushing yards per game. Kevin Greene and Gerald Robinson each had three of L.A.'s NFL-low 17 sacks. Not only did Everett throw 20 interceptions, but the Rams' turnover ratio was minus 21, worst in the NFL. No wonder they were 0-6 in the NFC West, 3-13 overall.

Knox labeled defense his top priority, and the Rams used their first three draft picks to take defensive end Sean Gilbert (third overall) from Pittsburgh, cornerback Steve Israel from Pitt, and tackle Marc Boute from LSU. Gilbert will start. The others have a shot.

Henry Ellard and Flipper Anderson are an excellent pass-receiving tandem...if Everett can get them the ball.

Knox, 60, is the only NFL coach to win divisional titles with three teams: the Rams, Buffalo and Seattle. This will be his toughest task yet.★

Everett's toughest season is behind him, as the Rams look to dramatically improve on their 3-13 record.

4x4



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KEVIN CONRAN



AIR FORCE

SEP. 5	RICE
SEP. 12	HAWAII
SEP. 19	@ WYOMING
SEP. 26	NEW MEXICO
OCT. 3	@ UTEP
OCT. 10	NAVY
OCT. 17	COLORADO ST.
OCT. 24	@ SAN DIEGO ST.
OCT. 31	UTAH
NOV. 7	@ ARMY
NOV. 14	BRIGHAM YOUNG

AKRON

SEP. 5	@ E. MICHIGAN
SEP. 12	TOLEDO
SEP. 19	@ W. MICHIGAN
OCT. 3	@ OHIO
OCT. 10	@ KENT
OCT. 17	@ BALL ST.
OCT. 24	BOWLING GREEN
OCT. 31	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
NOV. 7	TEMPLE
NOV. 14	YOUNGSTOWN ST.
NOV. 21	@ CINCINNATI

ALABAMA

SEP. 5	VANDERBILT
SEP. 12	S. MISSISSIPPI @ BIRMINGHAM
SEP. 19	ARKANSAS @ LITTLE ROCK
SEP. 26	LOUISIANA TECH.
OCT. 3	S. CAROLINA
OCT. 10	@ TULANE
OCT. 17	@ TENNESSEE
OCT. 24	MISSISSIPPI
NOV. 7	@ LOUISIANA ST.
NOV. 14	@ MISSISSIPPI ST.
NOV. 26	AUBURN

ARIZONA

SEP. 5	UTAH ST.
SEP. 12	WASHINGTON ST.
SEP. 19	@ OREGON ST.
SEP. 26	@ MIAMI (FL)
OCT. 3	UCLA
OCT. 17	@ STANFORD
OCT. 24	@ CALIFORNIA
OCT. 31	NEW MEXICO ST.
NOV. 7	WASHINGTON
NOV. 14	@ S. CALIFORNIA
NOV. 21	ARIZONA ST.

ARIZONA STATE

SEP. 5	WASHINGTON
SEP. 19	LOUISVILLE
SEP. 26	@ NEBRASKA
OCT. 3	@ OREGON
OCT. 10	PACIFIC (CA)
OCT. 17	OREGON ST.
OCT. 24	@ UCLA
OCT. 31	S. CALIFORNIA
NOV. 7	@ WASHINGTON ST.
NOV. 14	CALIFORNIA
NOV. 21	@ ARIZONA

ARKANSAS

SEP. 5	CITADEL
SEP. 12	@ S. CAROLINA
SEP. 19	ALABAMA @ LITTLE ROCK
SEP. 26	@ MEMPHIS ST.
OCT. 3	GEORGIA

OCT. 10	@ TENNESSEE
OCT. 17	MISSISSIPPI @ LITTLE ROCK
NOV. 7	@ MISSISSIPPI ST.
NOV. 21	SMU @ LITTLE ROCK
NOV. 28	LOUISIANA ST.

ARKANSAS STATE

SEP. 5	@ TOLEDO
SEP. 12	@ OKLAHOMA
SEP. 19	N. ILLINOIS
SEP. 26	S. ILLINOIS
OCT. 3	NORTHWESTERN (LA)
OCT. 10	TROY ST.
OCT. 17	@ MEMPHIS ST.
OCT. 24	@ MISSISSIPPI ST.
OCT. 31	@ LOUISIANA TECH.
NOV. 14	@ E. CAROLINA
NOV. 21	@ SW LOUISIANA

ARMY

SEP. 12	HOLY CROSS
SEP. 19	@ N. CAROLINA
SEP. 26	CITADEL
OCT. 10	LAFAYETTE
OCT. 17	RUTGERS @ E. RUTHERFORD
OCT. 24	@ WAKE FOREST
OCT. 31	E. MICHIGAN
NOV. 7	AIR FORCE
NOV. 14	N. ILLINOIS
NOV. 21	BOSTON COLLEGE
DEC. 5	NAVY @ PHILADELPHIA

AUBURN

SEP. 5	@ MISSISSIPPI
SEP. 12	SAMFORD
SEP. 19	LOUISIANA ST.
SEP. 26	S. MISSISSIPPI
OCT. 3	VANDERBILT
OCT. 10	@ MISSISSIPPI ST.
OCT. 17	@ FLORIDA
OCT. 24	SW LOUISIANA
OCT. 31	ARKANSAS
NOV. 14	GEORGIA
NOV. 26	@ ALABAMA

BALL STATE

SEP. 5	@ CLEMSON
SEP. 12	@ KANSAS
SEP. 19	@ KENT
SEP. 26	MIAMI (OH)
OCT. 3	@ W. MICHIGAN
OCT. 10	E. MICHIGAN
OCT. 17	AKRON
OCT. 24	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
OCT. 31	@ OHIO
NOV. 7	TOLEDO
NOV. 14	@ BOWLING GREEN

BAYLOR

SEP. 5	LOUISIANA TECH.
SEP. 12	COLORADO
SEP. 19	UTAH ST.
SEP. 26	@ TEXAS TECH
OCT. 3	SMU
OCT. 10	@ TEXAS CHRISTIAN
OCT. 17	HOUSTON
OCT. 24	@ TEXAS A&M
OCT. 31	GEORGIA TECH
NOV. 7	@ RICE
NOV. 14	TEXAS
NOV. 21	TEXAS

BOSTON COLLEGE

SEP. 5	RUTGERS
SEP. 12	NORTHWESTERN
SEP. 19	NAVY
SEP. 26	MICHIGAN ST.
OCT. 3	@ W. VIRGINIA
OCT. 10	@ PENN ST.
OCT. 17	@ TULANE
OCT. 24	TEMPLE
OCT. 31	@ NOTRE DAME
NOV. 7	SYRACUSE
NOV. 14	@ ARMY
NOV. 21	

BOWLING GREEN

SEP. 5	W. MICHIGAN
SEP. 12	@ OHIO ST.
SEP. 19	@ WISCONSIN
SEP. 26	E. CAROLINA
OCT. 3	@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN
OCT. 10	OHIO
OCT. 17	@ TOLEDO
OCT. 24	@ AKRON
OCT. 31	MIAMI (OH)
NOV. 7	@ KENT
NOV. 14	BALL ST.
NOV. 21	

BRIGHAM YOUNG

SEP. 5	@ UTEP
SEP. 10	SAN DIEGO ST.
SEP. 19	UCLA
SEP. 26	@ HAWAII
OCT. 2	UTAH ST.
OCT. 10	FRESNO ST.
OCT. 17	@ WYOMING
OCT. 24	@ NOTRE DAME
OCT. 31	PENN ST.
NOV. 7	NEW MEXICO
NOV. 14	@ AIR FORCE
NOV. 21	@ UTAH

SEP. 5	SAN JOSE ST.
SEP. 12	@ PURDUE
SEP. 19	@ KANSAS
SEP. 26	OREGON ST.
OCT. 3	@ WASHINGTON
OCT. 10	@ S. CALIFORNIA
OCT. 17	ARIZONA
OCT. 24	UCLA
OCT. 31	@ ARKANSAS
NOV. 7	OHIO
NOV. 14	UTEP
NOV. 21	@ NEW MEXICO

CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY)

SEP. 5	SAN JOSE ST.
SEP. 12	@ PURDUE
SEP. 19	@ KANSAS
SEP. 26	OREGON ST.
OCT. 3	@ WASHINGTON
OCT. 10	@ S. CALIFORNIA
OCT. 17	ARIZONA
OCT. 24	UCLA
OCT. 31	@ ARKANSAS
NOV. 7	OHIO
NOV. 14	UTEP
NOV. 21	@ NEW MEXICO

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

SEP. 5	@ KENTUCKY
SEP. 12	@ MICHIGAN ST.
SEP. 19	OHIO
SEP. 26	TOLEDO
OCT. 3	BOWLING GREEN
OCT. 10	@ MIAMI (OH)
OCT. 17	KENT
OCT. 24	@ BALL ST.
OCT. 31	@ AKRON
NOV. 7	E. MICHIGAN
NOV. 14	@ W. MICHIGAN
NOV. 21	

CINCINNATI

SEP. 5	PENN ST.
SEP. 19	@ MIAMI (OH)
SEP. 26	@ TENNESSEE
OCT. 3	KENT
OCT. 10	GEORGIA TECH
OCT. 17	TEMPLE
OCT. 24	@ NOTRE DAME
OCT. 31	PENN ST.
NOV. 7	SYRACUSE
NOV. 14	ARIZONA
NOV. 21	@ WISCONSIN

CINCINNATI

SEP. 5	PENN ST.
SEP. 19	@ MIAMI (OH)
SEP. 26	@ TENNESSEE
OCT. 3	KENT
OCT. 10	GEORGIA TECH
OCT. 17	TEMPLE
OCT. 24	@ NOTRE DAME
OCT. 31	PENN ST.
NOV. 7	SYRACUSE
NOV. 14	ARIZONA
NOV. 21	@ WISCONSIN

CLEMSON

OCT. 24	S. MISSISSIPPI
OCT. 31	LOUISVILLE
NOV. 7	KENTUCKY
NOV. 14	RUTGERS
NOV. 21	AKRON
NOV. 28	

COLORADO

SEP. 5	COLORADO ST.
SEP. 12	@ BAYLOR
SEP. 19	@ MINNESOTA
SEP. 26	IOWA
OCT. 3	@ MISSOURI
OCT. 10	OKLAHOMA
OCT. 17	KANSAS
OCT. 24	@ NEBRASKA
OCT. 31	OKLAHOMA ST.
NOV. 7	@ KANSAS
NOV. 14	IOWA
NOV. 21	@ IOWA
NOV. 28	@ COLORADO ST.

COLORADO STATE

SEP. 5	@ COLORADO
SEP. 12	IDAHO
SEP. 19	@ FRESNO ST.
SEP. 26	@ LOUISIANA ST.
OCT. 3</td	

1992 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



OCT. 10 GEORGIA SOUTHERN
 OCT. 17 VANDERBILT
 OCT. 24 @ KENTUCKY
 OCT. 31 FLORIDA @ JACKSONVILLE
 NOV. 14 @ AUBURN
 NOV. 28 GEORGIA TECH

GEORGIA TECH
 SEP. 12 W. CAROLINA
 SEP. 19 @ VIRGINIA
 SEP. 26 CLEMSON
 OCT. 3 N. CAROLINA ST.
 OCT. 10 @ MARYLAND
 OCT. 17 FLORIDA ST.
 OCT. 24 @ N. CAROLINA
 OCT. 31 DUKE
 NOV. 7 @ BAYLOR
 NOV. 14 WAKE FOREST
 NOV. 28 @ GEORGIA

HAWAII
 SEP. 5 @ OREGON
 SEP. 12 @ AIR FORCE
 SEP. 26 BRIGHAM YOUNG
 OCT. 10 @ UTAH
 OCT. 17 FRESNO ST.
 OCT. 24 NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
 OCT. 31 @ UTEP
 NOV. 7 COLORADO ST.
 NOV. 14 @ SAN DIEGO ST.
 NOV. 21 WYOMING
 NOV. 28 @ TULSA
 DEC. 5 PITTSBURGH

HOUSTON
 SEP. 5 @ TULSA
 SEP. 19 ILLINOIS
 SEP. 26 @ MICHIGAN
 OCT. 3 SW LOUISIANA
 OCT. 17 @ BAYLOR
 OCT. 24 @ TEXAS
 OCT. 31 TEXAS CHRISTIAN
 NOV. 7 @ SMU
 NOV. 12 TEXAS A&M
 NOV. 21 @ TEXAS TECH
 NOV. 28 RICE

ILLINOIS
 SEP. 5 N. ILLINOIS
 SEP. 12 MISSOURI
 SEP. 19 @ HOUSTON
 OCT. 3 @ MINNESOTA
 OCT. 10 @ OHIO ST.
 OCT. 17 IOWA
 OCT. 24 NORTHWESTERN
 OCT. 31 @ WISCONSIN
 NOV. 7 PURDUE
 NOV. 14 @ MICHIGAN
 NOV. 21 MICHIGAN ST.

INDIANA
 SEP. 12 MIAMI (OH)
 SEP. 19 @ KENTUCKY
 SEP. 26 MISSOURI
 OCT. 3 @ MICHIGAN ST.
 OCT. 10 @ NORTHWESTERN
 OCT. 17 MICHIGAN
 OCT. 24 WISCONSIN
 OCT. 31 @ MINNESOTA
 NOV. 7 IOWA
 NOV. 14 @ OHIO ST.
 NOV. 21 PURDUE

IOWA
 AUG. 29 N. CAROLINA ST. @ E. RUTHERFORD
 SEP. 5 MIAMI (FL)
 SEP. 12 IOWA ST.
 SEP. 26 @ COLORADO
 OCT. 3 @ MICHIGAN
 OCT. 10 WISCONSIN
 OCT. 17 @ ILLINOIS
 OCT. 24 PURDUE
 OCT. 31 OHIO ST.
 NOV. 7 @ INDIANA
 NOV. 14 NORTHWESTERN
 NOV. 21 @ MINNESOTA

IOWA STATE
 SEP. 5 OHIO
 SEP. 12 @ IOWA
 SEP. 19 TULANE
 SEP. 26 N. IOWA
 OCT. 3 @ OKLAHOMA
 OCT. 17 KANSAS
 OCT. 24 @ OKLAHOMA ST.
 OCT. 31 MISSOURI
 NOV. 7 @ KANSAS ST.
 NOV. 14 NEBRASKA
 NOV. 21 @ COLORADO

KANSAS
 SEP. 5 @ OREGON ST.
 SEP. 12 BALL ST.
 SEP. 19 @ TULSA
 SEP. 24 CALIFORNIA
 OCT. 10 KANSAS ST.
 OCT. 17 @ IOWA ST.
 OCT. 24 OKLAHOMA
 OCT. 31 OKLAHOMA ST.
 NOV. 7 @ NEBRASKA
 NOV. 14 COLORADO
 NOV. 21 MISSOURI

KANSAS STATE
 SEP. 19 MONTANA
 SEP. 26 TEMPLE
 OCT. 3 NEW MEXICO ST.
 OCT. 10 @ KANSAS ST.
 OCT. 17 @ UTAH ST.
 OCT. 24 @ COLORADO
 OCT. 31 @ OKLAHOMA
 NOV. 7 IOWA ST.
 NOV. 14 @ MISSOURI
 NOV. 21 @ OKLAHOMA ST.
 DEC. 6 NEBRASKA @ TOKYO, JAPAN

KENT
 SEP. 5 @ PITTSBURGH
 SEP. 12 OHIO
 SEP. 19 BALL ST.
 SEP. 26 @ E. MICHIGAN
 OCT. 3 @ CINCINNATI
 OCT. 10 AKRON
 OCT. 17 @ CENTRAL MICHIGAN
 OCT. 24 W. MICHIGAN
 OCT. 31 @ TOLEDO
 NOV. 7 BOWLING GREEN
 NOV. 14 @ MIAMI (OH)

KENTUCKY
 SEP. 5 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
 SEP. 12 @ FLORIDA
 SEP. 19 INDIANA
 SEP. 26 S. CAROLINA
 OCT. 3 @ MISSISSIPPI
 OCT. 17 @ LOUISIANA ST.

OCT. 24 GEORGIA
 OCT. 31 @ MISSISSIPPI ST.
 NOV. 7 VANDERBILT
 NOV. 14 @ CINCINNATI
 NOV. 21 @ TENNESSEE

LOUISIANA STATE

SEP. 5 TEXAS A&M
 SEP. 12 MISSISSIPPI ST.
 SEP. 19 @ AUBURN
 SEP. 26 COLORADO ST.
 OCT. 3 @ TENNESSEE
 OCT. 10 @ FLORIDA
 OCT. 17 KENTUCKY
 OCT. 31 MISSISSIPPI @ JACKSON
 NOV. 7 ALABAMA
 NOV. 21 TULANE
 NOV. 28 @ ARKANSAS

LOUISIANA TECH

SEP. 5 @ BAYLOR
 SEP. 12 E. MICHIGAN
 SEP. 19 @ S. MISSISSIPPI
 SEP. 26 @ ALABAMA
 OCT. 3 @ FRESCO ST.
 OCT. 10 SW LOUISIANA
 OCT. 17 E. TENNESSEE ST.
 OCT. 31 ARKANSAS ST.
 NOV. 7 @ S. CAROLINA
 NOV. 14 @ MISSISSIPPI
 NOV. 21 @ W. VIRGINIA

LOUISVILLE

SEP. 5 @ OHIO ST.
 SEP. 12 MEMPHIS ST.
 SEP. 19 @ ARIZONA ST.
 SEP. 26 @ WYOMING
 OCT. 3 SYRACUSE
 OCT. 10 VIRGINIA TECH
 OCT. 17 TULSA
 OCT. 24 @ FLORIDA
 OCT. 31 @ CINCINNATI
 NOV. 7 @ TEXAS A&M
 NOV. 14 @ PITTSBURGH

MARYLAND

SEP. 5 @ VIRGINIA
 SEP. 12 N. CAROLINA ST.
 SEP. 19 @ W. VIRGINIA
 SEP. 26 @ PENN ST.
 OCT. 3 PITTSBURGH
 OCT. 10 GEORGIA TECH
 OCT. 17 WAKE FOREST
 OCT. 24 @ DUKE
 OCT. 31 N. CAROLINA
 NOV. 7 @ FLORIDA ST.
 NOV. 14 @ CLEMSON

MEMPHIS ST.

SEP. 5 @ S. MISSISSIPPI
 SEP. 12 @ LOUISVILLE
 SEP. 19 MISSISSIPPI ST.
 SEP. 26 ARKANSAS

MINNESOTA

SEP. 12 SAN JOSE ST.
 SEP. 19 COLORADO

OCT. 10 CINCINNATI
 OCT. 17 @ ARKANSAS ST.
 OCT. 24 @ TULSA
 OCT. 31 @ TULANE
 NOV. 7 @ MISSISSIPPI
 NOV. 14 TENNESSEE
 NOV. 21 @ E. CAROLINA

MIAMI (FLORIDA)

SEP. 5 @ IOWA
 SEP. 19 FLORIDA A&M
 SEP. 26 ARIZONA
 OCT. 3 FLORIDA ST.
 OCT. 10 @ PENN ST.
 OCT. 17 TEXAS CHRISTIAN
 OCT. 24 @ VIRGINIA TECH
 OCT. 31 W. VIRGINIA
 NOV. 14 TEMPLE
 NOV. 21 @ SYRACUSE
 NOV. 28 @ SAN DIEGO ST.

MIAMI (OHIO)

SEP. 5 @ W. VIRGINIA
 SEP. 12 @ INDIANA
 SEP. 19 CINCINNATI
 SEP. 26 @ BALL ST.
 OCT. 3 @ E. MICHIGAN
 OCT. 10 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
 OCT. 17 @ OHIO
 OCT. 24 TOLEDO
 OCT. 31 @ BOWLING GREEN
 NOV. 7 W. MICHIGAN
 NOV. 14 KENT

MICHIGAN

SEP. 12 @ NOTRE DAME
 SEP. 19 OKLAHOMA ST.
 SEP. 26 @ HOUSTON
 OCT. 3 IOWA
 OCT. 10 MICHIGAN ST.
 OCT. 17 @ INDIANA
 OCT. 24 MINNESOTA
 OCT. 31 @ PURDUE
 NOV. 7 @ NORTHWESTERN
 NOV. 14 ILLINOIS
 NOV. 21 @ OHIO ST.

MICHIGAN STATE

SEP. 12 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
 SEP. 19 NOTRE DAME
 SEP. 26 @ BOSTON COLLEGE
 OCT. 3 INDIANA
 OCT. 10 @ MICHIGAN
 OCT. 17 @ MINNESOTA
 OCT. 24 OHIO ST.
 OCT. 31 @ NORTHWESTERN
 NOV. 7 WISCONSIN
 NOV. 14 PURDUE
 NOV. 21 @ ILLINOIS

MINNESOTA

SEP. 12 SAN JOSE ST.
 SEP. 19 COLORADO

SEP. 26 @ PITTSBURGH
 OCT. 3 ILLINOIS
 OCT. 10 @ PURDUE
 OCT. 17 MICHIGAN ST.
 OCT. 24 @ MICHIGAN
 OCT. 31 INDIANA
 NOV. 7 @ OHIO ST.
 NOV. 14 @ WISCONSIN
 NOV. 21 IOWA

MISSISSIPPI

SEP. 5 AUBURN
 SEP. 12 @ TULANE
 SEP. 19 @ VANDERBILT
 SEP. 26 @ GEORGIA
 OCT. 3 KENTUCKY
 OCT. 17 ARKANSAS @ LITTLE ROCK
 OCT. 24 @ ALABAMA
 OCT. 31 LOUISIANA ST. @ JACKSON
 NOV. 7 MEMPHIS ST.
 NOV. 14 LOUISIANA TECH
 NOV. 28 MISSISSIPPI ST.

MISSISSIPPI ST.

SEP. 5 @ TEXAS
 SEP. 12 @ LOUISIANA ST.
 SEP. 19 @ MEMPHIS
 OCT. 1 FLORIDA
 OCT. 10 @ AUBURN
 OCT. 17 @ S. CAROLINA
 OCT. 24 ARKANSAS ST.
 OCT. 31 @ KENTUCKY
 NOV. 7 ARKANSAS
 NOV. 14 ALABAMA
 NOV. 28 @ MISSISSIPPI

MISSOURI

SEP. 12 @ ILLINOIS
 SEP. 19 TEXAS A&M
 SEP. 26 @ INDIANA
 OCT. 3 MARSHALL
 OCT. 8 COLORADO
 OCT. 17 @ OKLAHOMA ST.
 OCT. 24 @ NEBRASKA
 OCT. 31 @ IOWA ST.
 NOV. 7 @ OKLAHOMA
 NOV. 14 KANSAS ST.
 NOV. 21 KANSAS

NAVY (U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY)

SEP. 12 VIRGINIA
 SEP. 19 @ BOSTON COLLEGE
 SEP. 26 RUTGERS
 OCT. 3 @ N. CAROLINA
 OCT. 10 @ AIR FORCE
 OCT. 24 DELAWARE
 OCT. 31 @ NOTRE DAME @ E. RUTHERFORD
 NOV. 7 TULANE
 NOV. 14 VANDERBILT
 NOV. 21 @ RICE
 DEC. 5 @ ARMY @ PHILADELPHIA

NEBRASKA

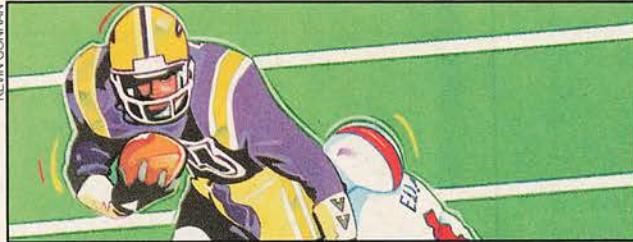
SEP. 5 UTAH
 SEP. 12 MIDDLE TENN. ST.

TOYOTA

"I love what you do for me."

TOYOTA

KEVIN CONRAN



SEP. 19	@ WASHINGTON
SEP. 26	ARIZONA ST.
OCT. 10	OKLAHOMA ST.
OCT. 24	@ MISSOURI
OCT. 31	COLORADO
NOV. 7	KANSAS
NOV. 14	@ IOWA ST.
NOV. 27	@ OKLAHOMA
DEC. 6	KANSAS ST. @ TOKYO, JAPAN

NEVADA-LAS VEGAS

SEP. 12	UTEP
SEP. 19	N. ARIZONA
SEP. 26	@ OREGON
OCT. 3	@ PACIFIC (CA)
OCT. 10	@ NEW MEXICO ST.
OCT. 17	NEVADA
OCT. 24	@ HAWAII
OCT. 31	SAN JOSE ST.
NOV. 7	@ UTAH ST.
NOV. 21	MONTANA ST.
NOV. 28	CAL ST. FULLERTON

NEVADA-RENO

SEP. 5	@ WYOMING
SEP. 12	PACIFIC (CA)
SEP. 19	MCNEESE ST.
SEP. 26	@ TULANE
OCT. 3	@ CAL ST. FULLERTON
OCT. 17	@ NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
OCT. 24	NEW MEXICO ST.
OCT. 31	WEBER ST.
NOV. 7	@ SAN JOSE ST.
NOV. 14	UTAH ST.
NOV. 21	TEXAS SOUTHERN

NEW MEXICO

SEP. 5	TEXAS CHRISTIAN
SEP. 12	@ NEW MEXICO ST.
SEP. 19	SMU
SEP. 26	@ AIR FORCE
OCT. 3	SAN DIEGO ST.
OCT. 10	@ WYOMING
OCT. 17	UTAH
OCT. 24	@ FRESNO ST.
NOV. 7	@ BRIGHAM YOUNG
NOV. 14	UTEP
NOV. 21	COLORADO ST.

NEW MEXICO STATE

SEP. 5	WEBER ST.
SEP. 12	NEW MEXICO ST.
SEP. 19	@ UTEP
SEP. 26	@ UTAH ST.
OCT. 3	@ KANSAS ST.
OCT. 10	NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
OCT. 17	PACIFIC (CA)
OCT. 24	@ NEVADA
OCT. 31	@ ARIZONA
NOV. 14	CAL ST. FULLERTON
NOV. 21	@ SAN JOSE ST.

NORTH CAROLINA

SEP. 5	@ WAKE FOREST
SEP. 12	FURMAN
SEP. 19	ARMY
SEP. 26	N. CAROLINA ST.
OCT. 3	NAVY
OCT. 10	NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
OCT. 17	PACIFIC (CA)
OCT. 24	@ NEVADA
OCT. 31	@ ARIZONA
NOV. 14	CAL ST. FULLERTON
NOV. 21	@ SAN JOSE ST.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

AUG. 29	IOWA @ E. RUTHERFORD
SEP. 5	APPALACHIAN ST.
SEP. 12	@ MARYLAND
SEP. 19	FLORIDA ST.
SEP. 26	@ N. CAROLINA
OCT. 3	@ GEORGIA TECH
OCT. 10	TEXAS TECH
OCT. 17	@ VIRGINIA TECH
OCT. 24	CLEMSON
NOV. 7	@ VIRGINIA
NOV. 14	DUKE
NOV. 21	WAKE FOREST

OKLAHOMA

SEP. 3	@ TEXAS TECH
SEP. 12	ARKANSAS ST.
SEP. 19	S. CALIFORNIA
OCT. 3	IOWA ST.
OCT. 10	TEXAS @ DALLAS
OCT. 17	@ COLORADO
OCT. 24	@ KANSAS
OCT. 31	KANSAS ST.
NOV. 7	MISSOURI
NOV. 14	@ OKLAHOMA ST.
NOV. 21	NEBRASKA

OKLAHOMA STATE

SEP. 5	INDIANA ST.
SEP. 19	@ MICHIGAN
SEP. 26	TULSA
OCT. 3	@ TEXAS CHRISTIAN
OCT. 10	@ NEBRASKA
OCT. 17	MISSOURI
OCT. 24	IOWA ST.
OCT. 31	@ KANSAS
NOV. 7	@ COLORADO
NOV. 14	OKLAHOMA
NOV. 21	KANSAS ST.

OREGON

SEP. 5	HAWAII
SEP. 12	@ STANFORD
SEP. 19	TEXAS TECH
SEP. 26	NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
OCT. 3	ARIZONA ST.
OCT. 10	@ USC
OCT. 17	WASHINGTON
OCT. 31	@ WASHINGTON ST.
NOV. 7	CALIFORNIA
NOV. 14	UCLA
NOV. 21	@ OREGON ST.

OREGON STATE

SEP. 5	KANSAS
SEP. 12	FRESNO ST.
SEP. 19	ARIZONA
SEP. 26	@ UTAH
OCT. 3	@ CALIFORNIA
OCT. 10	WASHINGTON ST.
OCT. 17	@ ARIZONA ST.
OCT. 24	STANFORD
OCT. 31	@ UCLA
NOV. 7	@ WASHINGTON
NOV. 14	OREGON
NOV. 21	OREGON

PACIFIC (CALIFORNIA)

SEP. 5	FRESNO ST.
SEP. 12	@ NEVADA
SEP. 19	@ BOISE ST.
SEP. 26	SW MISSOURI ST.
OCT. 3	NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
OCT. 10	@ NEW MEXICO ST.
OCT. 17	@ WASHINGTON
OCT. 24	CAL ST. FULLERTON
OCT. 31	SAN JOSE ST.
NOV. 7	SAN FRANCISCO
NOV. 14	UTAH ST.
NOV. 21	UTAH ST.

PENN STATE

SEP. 5	@ CINCINNATI
SEP. 12	TEMPLE
OCT. 3	W. VIRGINIA
OCT. 10	HAWAII
OCT. 17	FRESNO ST.
OCT. 24	MIAAMI (FL)

E. MICHIGAN

SEP. 19	MARYLAND
SEP. 26	MINNESOTA
OCT. 3	RUTGERS @ E. RUTHERFORD
OCT. 10	MIAMI (FL)
OCT. 17	BOSTON COLLEGE
OCT. 24	@ WEST VIRGINIA
OCT. 31	@ BRIGHAM YOUNG
NOV. 14	@ NOTRE DAME
NOV. 21	PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH

SEP. 5	KENT
SEP. 12	W. VIRGINIA
SEP. 19	@ RUTGERS
SEP. 26	MINNESOTA
OCT. 3	@ MARYLAND
OCT. 10	NOTRE DAME
OCT. 17	@ TEMPLE
OCT. 24	E. CAROLINA
OCT. 31	@ SYRACUSE
NOV. 14	LOUISVILLE
NOV. 21	PENN ST.

PURDUE

SEP. 12	CALIFORNIA
SEP. 19	TOLEDO
SEP. 26	@ NOTRE DAME
OCT. 3	NORTHWESTERN
OCT. 10	MINNESOTA
OCT. 17	@ WISCONSIN
OCT. 24	@ IOWA
OCT. 31	MICHIGAN
NOV. 7	@ ILLINOIS
NOV. 14	@ MICHIGAN ST.
NOV. 21	INDIANA

RICE

SEP. 5	@ AIR FORCE
SEP. 19	@ DUKE
SEP. 26	SAM HOUSTON ST.
OCT. 3	@ TEXAS
OCT. 10	SMU
OCT. 17	@ TEXAS A&M
OCT. 24	@ TEXAS CHRISTIAN
NOV. 7	TEXAS TECH
NOV. 14	Baylor
NOV. 21	NAVY

RUTGERS

SEP. 5	@ BOSTON COLLEGE
SEP. 12	COLGATE
SEP. 19	PITTSBURGH
SEP. 26	@ NAVY
OCT. 3	PENN ST. @ E. RUTHERFORD
OCT. 10	@ SYRACUSE
OCT. 17	ARMY @ E. RUTHERFORD
OCT. 24	VIRGINIA TECH
NOV. 7	@ CINCINNATI
NOV. 14	W. VIRGINIA
NOV. 21	@ TEMPLE

SAN DIEGO STATE

SEP. 5	S. CALIFORNIA
SEP. 10	@ BRIGHAM YOUNG
SEP. 26	@ NEW MEXICO
OCT. 3	@ UCLA
OCT. 10	UTEP
OCT. 17	AIR FORCE
OCT. 24	@ COLORADO ST.
OCT. 31	@ WYOMING
NOV. 7	HAWAII
NOV. 14	FRESNO ST.
NOV. 21	MIAMI (FL)

SAN JOSE STATE

SEP. 5	@ CALIFORNIA
SEP. 12	@ MINNESOTA
SEP. 19	SW LOUISIANA
SEP. 26	@ STANFORD
OCT. 3	@ WYOMING
OCT. 10	CAL ST. FULLERTON
OCT. 17	@ UTAH ST.
OCT. 31	@ NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
NOV. 7	NEVADA
NOV. 14	@ PACIFIC (CA)
NOV. 21	NEW MEXICO ST.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SEP. 5	GEORGIA
SEP. 12	ARKANSAS
SEP. 19	E. CAROLINA
SEP. 26	@ KENTUCKY
OCT. 3	@ ALABAMA
OCT. 10	MISSISSIPPI ST.
OCT. 17	@ VANDERBILT
OCT. 31	TENNESSEE
NOV. 7	LOUISIANA TECH
NOV. 14	@ FLORIDA
NOV. 21	@ CLEMSON

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SEP. 5	@ SAN DIEGO ST.
SEP. 19	@ WASHINGTON
OCT. 3	OREGON
OCT. 10	CALIFORNIA
OCT. 17	@ WISCONSIN
OCT. 24	HARVARD
OCT. 31	ARIZONA ST.
NOV. 7	@ ARIZONA
NOV. 14	@ UTAH
NOV. 21	NOTRE DAME

SOUTHERN METHODIST

SEP. 5	TULANE

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1992 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



OCT. 31 @ TULSA
NOV. 7 N. ILLINOIS
NOV. 21 ARKANSAS ST.

STANFORD

AUG. 26 TEXAS A&M @ ANAHEIM
SEP. 12 OREGON
SEP. 19 NORTHWESTERN
SEP. 26 SAN JOSE ST.
OCT. 3 @ NOTRE DAME
OCT. 10 @ UCLA
OCT. 17 ARIZONA
OCT. 24 @ OREGON ST.
OCT. 31 @ WASHINGTON
NOV. 7 S. CALIFORNIA
NOV. 14 WASHINGTON ST.
NOV. 21 @ CALIFORNIA

SYRACUSE

SEP. 5 @ E. CAROLINA
SEP. 12 TEXAS
SEP. 19 OHIO ST.
OCT. 3 @ LOUISVILLE
OCT. 10 RUTGERS
OCT. 17 @ W. VIRGINIA
OCT. 24 @ TEMPLE
OCT. 31 PITTSBURGH
NOV. 7 VIRGINIA TECH
NOV. 14 @ BOSTON COLLEGE
NOV. 21 MIAMI (FL)

TEMPLE

SEP. 5 BOSTON U.
SEP. 12 @ PENN ST.
SEP. 19 VIRGINIA TECH
SEP. 26 @ KANSAS ST.
OCT. 3 @ WASHINGTON ST.
OCT. 17 PITTSBURGH
OCT. 24 SYRACUSE
OCT. 31 @ BOSTON COLLEGE
NOV. 7 @ ACRON
NOV. 14 @ MIAM (FL)
NOV. 21 RUTGERS

TENNESSEE

SEP. 5 SW LOUISIANA
SEP. 12 @ GEORGIA
SEP. 19 FLORIDA
SEP. 26 CINCINNATI
OCT. 3 @ LOUISIANA ST.
OCT. 10 ARKANSAS
OCT. 17 ALABAMA
OCT. 31 @ S. CAROLINA
NOV. 14 @ MEMPHIS ST.
NOV. 21 KENTUCKY
NOV. 28 @ VANDERBILT

TEXAS

SEP. 5 MISSISSIPPI ST.
SEP. 12 @ SYRACUSE
SEP. 26 N. TEXAS
OCT. 3 @ RICE
OCT. 10 OKLAHOMA @ DALLAS
OCT. 24 HOUSTON
OCT. 31 @ TEXAS TECH
NOV. 7 @ TEXAS CHRISTIAN
NOV. 14 SMU
NOV. 21 @ BAYLOR
NOV. 26 TEXAS A&M

UTEP

SEP. 5 BRIGHAM YOUNG
SEP. 12 @ NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
SEP. 19 NEW MEXICO ST.

OCT. 3 AIR FORCE
OCT. 10 @ COLORADO ST.
OCT. 17 @ SAN DIEGO ST.
OCT. 24 @ UTAH
OCT. 31 HAWAII
NOV. 7 TULSA
NOV. 14 @ NEW MEXICO
NOV. 28 FRESNO ST.

TEXAS A&M

AUG. 26 STANFORD @ ANAHEIM
SEP. 5 @ LOUISIANA ST.
SEP. 12 TULSA
SEP. 19 @ MISSOURI
OCT. 3 TEXAS TECH
OCT. 17 RICE
OCT. 24 BAYLOR
OCT. 31 @ SMU
NOV. 7 LOUISVILLE
NOV. 12 @ HOUSTON
NOV. 21 TEXAS CHRISTIAN
NOV. 26 @ TEXAS

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

SEP. 5 @ NEW MEXICO
SEP. 12 W. MICHIGAN
SEP. 26 @ SMU
OCT. 3 OKLAHOMA ST.
OCT. 10 BAYLOR
OCT. 17 @ MIAMI (FL)
OCT. 24 RICE
OCT. 31 @ HOUSTON
NOV. 7 TEXAS
NOV. 14 TEXAS TECH
NOV. 21 @ TEXAS A&M

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

SEP. 3 OKLAHOMA
SEP. 12 WYOMING
SEP. 19 @ OREGON
SEP. 26 BAYLOR
OCT. 3 @ TEXAS A&M
OCT. 10 @ N. CAROLINA ST.
OCT. 24 SMU
OCT. 31 TEXAS
NOV. 7 @ RICE
NOV. 14 @ TEXAS CHRISTIAN
NOV. 21 HOUSTON

TOLEDO

SEP. 5 ARKANSAS ST.
SEP. 12 @ ACRON
SEP. 19 @ PURDUE
SEP. 26 @ CENTRAL MICHIGAN
OCT. 10 W. MICHIGAN
OCT. 17 BOWLING GREEN
OCT. 24 @ MIAMI (OH)
OCT. 31 KENT
NOV. 7 @ BALL ST.
NOV. 14 E. MICHIGAN
NOV. 21 @ N. ILLINOIS

TULANE

SEP. 5 @ SMU
SEP. 12 @ MISSISSIPPI
SEP. 19 @ IOWA ST.
SEP. 26 NEVADA
OCT. 10 ALABAMA
OCT. 15 S. MISSISSIPPI
OCT. 24 BOSTON COLLEGE
OCT. 31 MEMPHIS ST.
NOV. 7 @ NAVY
NOV. 14 @ FLORIDA ST.
NOV. 21 @ LOUISIANA ST.

TULSA

SEP. 5 HOUSTON
SEP. 12 @ TEXAS A&M
SEP. 19 KANSAS
SEP. 26 @ OKLAHOMA ST.
OCT. 3 @ S. MISSISSIPPI
OCT. 10 SW MISSOURI ST.
OCT. 17 @ LOUISVILLE
OCT. 24 MEMPHIS ST.
OCT. 31 SW LOUISIANA
NOV. 7 @ UTEP
NOV. 28 @ HAWAII

UCLA

SEP. 12 CAL ST. FULLERTON
SEP. 19 @ BRIGHAM YOUNG
SEP. 26 SAN DIEGO ST.
OCT. 3 @ ARIZONA
OCT. 10 STANFORD
OCT. 17 @ WASHINGTON ST.
OCT. 24 ARIZONA ST.
OCT. 31 @ CALIFORNIA
NOV. 7 OREGON ST.
NOV. 14 @ OREGON
NOV. 21 USC

UTAH

SEP. 5 @ NEBRASKA
SEP. 12 @ UTAH ST.
SEP. 19 @ OREGON ST.
SEP. 26 @ COLORADO ST.
OCT. 3 @ ARIZONA
OCT. 10 HAWAII
OCT. 17 @ NEW MEXICO
OCT. 24 @ UTEP
OCT. 31 @ AIR FORCE
NOV. 7 @ FRESCO ST.
NOV. 14 @ WYOMING
NOV. 21 BRIGHAM YOUNG

UTAH STATE

SEP. 5 @ ARIZONA
SEP. 12 UTAH
SEP. 19 @ BAYLOR
SEP. 26 NEW MEXICO ST.
OCT. 2 @ BRIGHAM YOUNG
OCT. 17 KANSAS ST.
OCT. 24 SAN JOSE ST.
OCT. 31 @ CAL ST. FULLERTON
NOV. 7 NEVADA-LAS VEGAS
NOV. 14 @ NEVADA
NOV. 21 @ PACIFIC (CA)

VANDERBILT

SEP. 5 @ ALABAMA
SEP. 12 DUKE
SEP. 19 MISSISSIPPI
OCT. 3 @ AUBURN
OCT. 10 WAKE FOREST
OCT. 17 @ GEORGIA
OCT. 24 S. CAROLINA

NOV. 7 @ KENTUCKY
NOV. 14 @ NAVY
NOV. 21 FLORIDA
NOV. 28 TENNESSEE

VIRGINIA

SEP. 5 MARYLAND
SEP. 12 @ NAVY
SEP. 19 GEORGIA TECH
SEP. 26 @ DUKE
OCT. 3 @ WAKE FOREST
OCT. 10 CLEMSON
OCT. 17 @ N. CAROLINA
OCT. 24 WILLIAM & MARY
OCT. 31 FLORIDA ST.
NOV. 7 N. CAROLINA ST.
NOV. 21 @ VIRGINIA TECH

VIRGINIA TECH

SEP. 5 JAMES MADISON
SEP. 12 @ E. CAROLINA
SEP. 19 @ TEMPLE
SEP. 26 W. VIRGINIA
OCT. 10 @ LOUISVILLE
N. CAROLINA ST.
OCT. 17 MIAMI (FL)
OCT. 24 @ RUTGERS
NOV. 7 @ SYRACUSE
NOV. 14 S. MISSISSIPPI
NOV. 21 VIRGINIA

WAKE FOREST

SEP. 5 N. CAROLINA
SEP. 12 APPALACHIAN ST.
SEP. 19 @ FLORIDA ST.
OCT. 3 @ VANDERBILT
OCT. 10 @ MARYLAND
OCT. 24 ARMY
OCT. 31 CLEMSON
NOV. 7 @ DUKE
NOV. 14 @ GEORGIA TECH
NOV. 21 @ N. CAROLINA ST.

WASHINGTON

SEP. 5 @ ARIZONA ST.
SEP. 12 WISCONSIN
SEP. 19 NEBRASKA
OCT. 3 @ USC
OCT. 10 CALIFORNIA
OCT. 17 @ OREGON
OCT. 24 PACIFIC (CA)
OCT. 31 STANFORD
NOV. 7 @ ARIZONA
NOV. 14 OREGON ST.
NOV. 21 @ WASHINGTON ST.

WASHINGTON STATE

SEP. 5 MONTANA
SEP. 12 @ ARIZONA
SEP. 19 @ FRESCO ST.
OCT. 24 @ HAWAII

OCT. 3 TEMPLE
OCT. 10 @ OREGON ST.
OCT. 17 UCLA
OCT. 24 @ USC
OCT. 31 OREGON
NOV. 7 ARIZONA ST.
NOV. 14 @ STANFORD
NOV. 21 WASHINGTON

WEST VIRGINIA

SEP. 5 MIAMI (OH)
SEP. 12 @ PITTSBURGH
SEP. 19 MARYLAND
SEP. 26 @ VIRGINIA TECH
OCT. 3 BOSTON COLLEGE
OCT. 17 SYRACUSE
OCT. 24 PENN ST.
OCT. 31 @ MIAMI (FL)
NOV. 7 E. CAROLINA
NOV. 14 @ RUTGERS
NOV. 21 LOUISIANA TECH

WESTERN MICHIGAN

SEP. 5 @ BOWLING GREEN
SEP. 12 @ TEXAS CHRISTIAN
SEP. 19 AKRON
SEP. 26 @ OHIO
OCT. 3 BALL ST.
OCT. 10 @ TOLEDO
OCT. 17 E. MICHIGAN
OCT. 24 @ KENT
OCT. 31 N. ILLINOIS
NOV. 7 @ MIAMI (OH)
NOV. 14 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

WISCONSIN

SEP. 12 @ WASHINGTON
SEP. 19 BOWLING GREEN
SEP. 26 N. ILLINOIS
OCT. 3 OHIO ST.
OCT. 10 @ IOWA
OCT. 17 PURDUE
OCT. 24 @ INDIANA
OCT. 31 ILLINOIS
NOV. 7 @ MICHIGAN ST.
NOV. 14 MINNESOTA
NOV. 21 @ NORTHWESTERN

WYOMING

SEP. 5 NEVADA
SEP. 12 @ TEXAS TECH
SEP. 19 AIR FORCE
SEP. 26 @ LOUISVILLE
OCT. 3 SAN JOSE ST.
OCT. 10 NEW MEXICO
OCT. 17 BRIGHAM YOUNG
OCT. 24 @ COLORADO ST.
OCT. 31 @ FRESCO ST.
NOV. 7 SAN DIEGO ST.
NOV. 14 @ UTAH
NOV. 21 @ HAWAII



The all-new 1992 TOYOTA PASEO. Starting under \$10,800*

it's a very sexy sports coupe
that PRACTICAL ly
begs to less the open road.
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ALABAMA HAS WON 11
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN 99 YEARS OF FOOTBALL,
BUT THE TIDE HASN'T BEEN
NO. 1 SINCE 1979. THEY'RE DUE

TOP 20

BY CRAIG ELLENPORT

1. ALABAMA

Some of the greatest players from one of the greatest programs in college football history showed up for Alabama's spring practice this year. Unfortunately, they weren't playing.

LeRoy Jordan, Cornelius Bennett, Derrick Thomas, Kenny Stabler, Ozzie Newsome and John Hannah, among others, were on hand as representatives of Alabama's Team of the Century—part of the Crimson Tide's centennial football celebration going on all season. It's a celebration that will end on January 1 in the Sugar Bowl, where the 1992 Tide will become the school's 12th national champion.

While the likes of Miami and Notre Dame may have better teams on paper, Alabama has the potential to be right there and has the history to rival both the Hurricanes and the Irish.

"With all the great tradition and legacy that goes with the University of Alabama, the 100th year should be a good year for us," says head coach Gene Stallings. "There'll be a lot made out of every ball game, and, of course, that creates a little additional pressure. But I think our football team will respond to it."

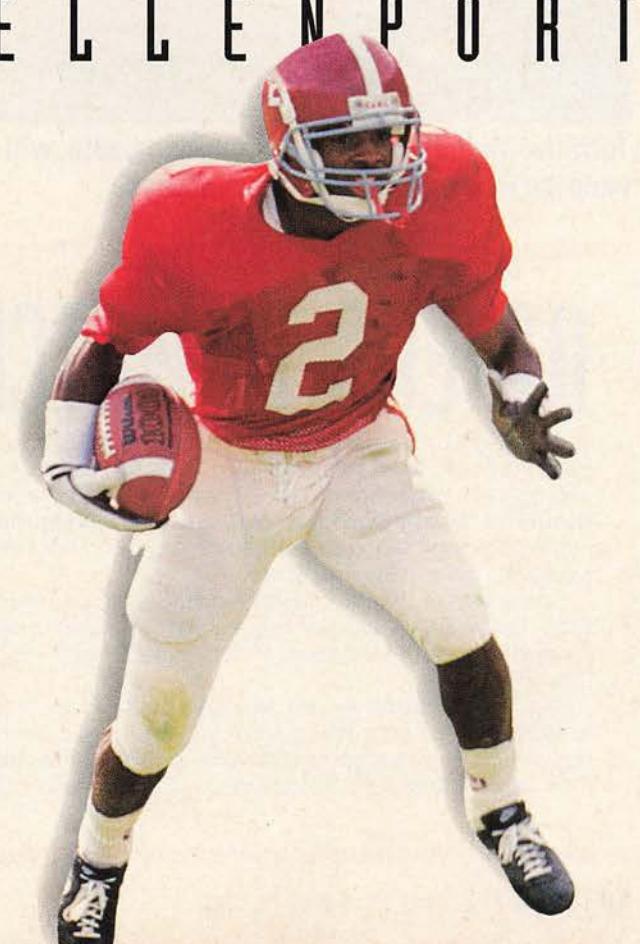
Under Stallings, the Tide has won 18 of its last 21 games. Alabama enters the 1992 season riding a 10-game winning streak and appears to have found a solid quarterback in Jay Barker. Undefeated in five starts as a redshirt freshman last

year, Barker is picking up experience and confidence with each game. And in the age of the Rocket Ismail-type multi-threat player, Alabama features perhaps the most Rocket-like of them all in sophomore David Palmer, who scored touchdowns last year as a receiver, running back, punt returner and quarterback.

The defense doesn't just keep Alabama in games—it wins them. In 1991, the Tide defense intercepted 20 passes, caused 12 fumbles, blocked four field goals and scored three touchdowns. Excluding the lone loss to Florida, Alabama allowed an average of 9.8 points a game.

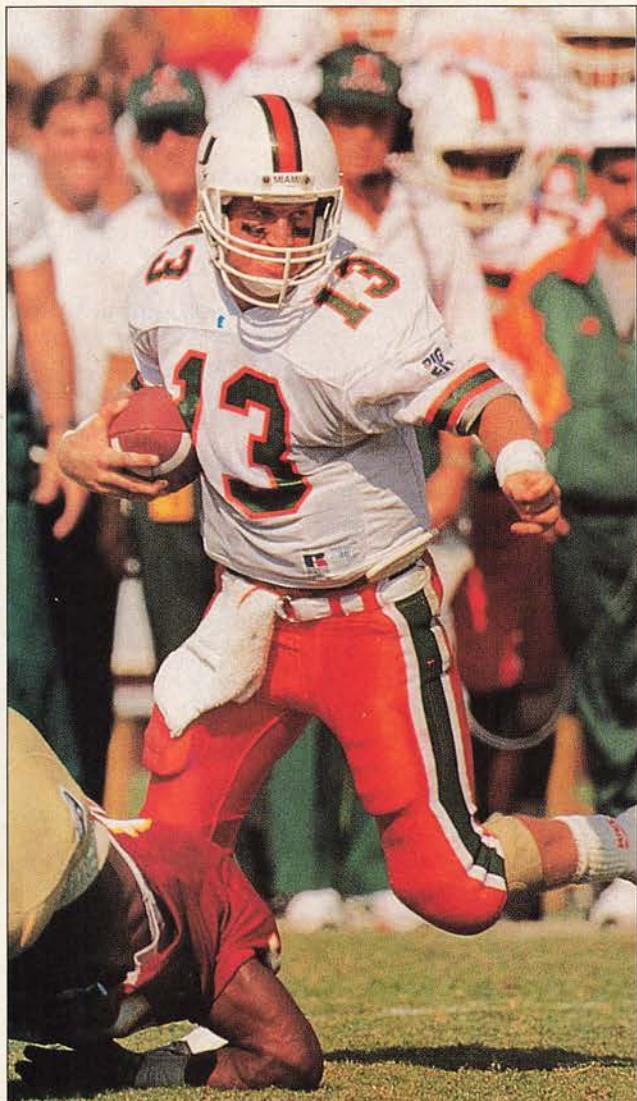
The schedule is accommodating as well. Alabama's young team (the youngest to finish in the top 25 last year) has time to mature before facing its toughest games late in the season. By the time New Year's Day rolls around, the Tide will be ready to take on all comers.

TOP 20



BOBROSATO

Palmer is the Crimson Tide's version of Rocket Ismail.



IRAGABRIEL

Torretta, Miami's annual Heisman candidate, will keep the Hurricanes in the national chase.

2. MIAMI

We'll stick with the trend on this one. It's not an odd year, so no matter how good the Hurricanes look on paper, we can't pick them No. 1.

Miami has won an incredible four national championships in the past nine years. But the one thing the 'Canes have failed to do is win consecutive titles. That's because they simply don't do well in even-numbered years.

The 'Canes won it all in 1983, '87, '89 and '91. In those four years, they compiled a record of 46-2. However, in the last four even-numbered years, Miami's combined record is a paltry 40-9. And these guys think they can repeat?

So forget the fact that Dennis Erickson's club, which went 12-0 and shared the national championship with Washington a year ago, features the best receiving corps in the nation (led by Lamar Thomas), the best linebacking corps in the nation (led by Darrin Smith), a Heisman Trophy front-runner at quarterback (Gino Torretta), and a defensive end who has 24 sacks in 20 career games (Rusty Medearis). Miami hasn't got a prayer.

All kidding aside, of course, this is easily one of the best teams in the country. No surprise there. But everyone expected the Hurricanes to repeat in 1990, and they went out and got beaten by BYU in the season opener.

That even/odd thing will get 'em every time.

3. NOTRE DAME

"I always say, 'What if they play their best and we play our worst—are they capable of beating us?'"

That's the reasoning Lou Holtz gives for always downplaying the chances of his Notre Dame team when it is facing a clearly inferior opponent. But this year, the Fighting Irish may be so loaded that even the worst-case scenario is not enough to diminish hopes for the Golden Domers.

OTHERS TO WATCH

Heated conference races in both the ACC and the Pac-10 could lead to some very talented teams cancelling each other out of top-20 contention. In the ACC, **Clemson, North Carolina, N.C. State and Virginia** all could challenge **Georgia Tech** for that second spot in the standings behind **Florida State**.

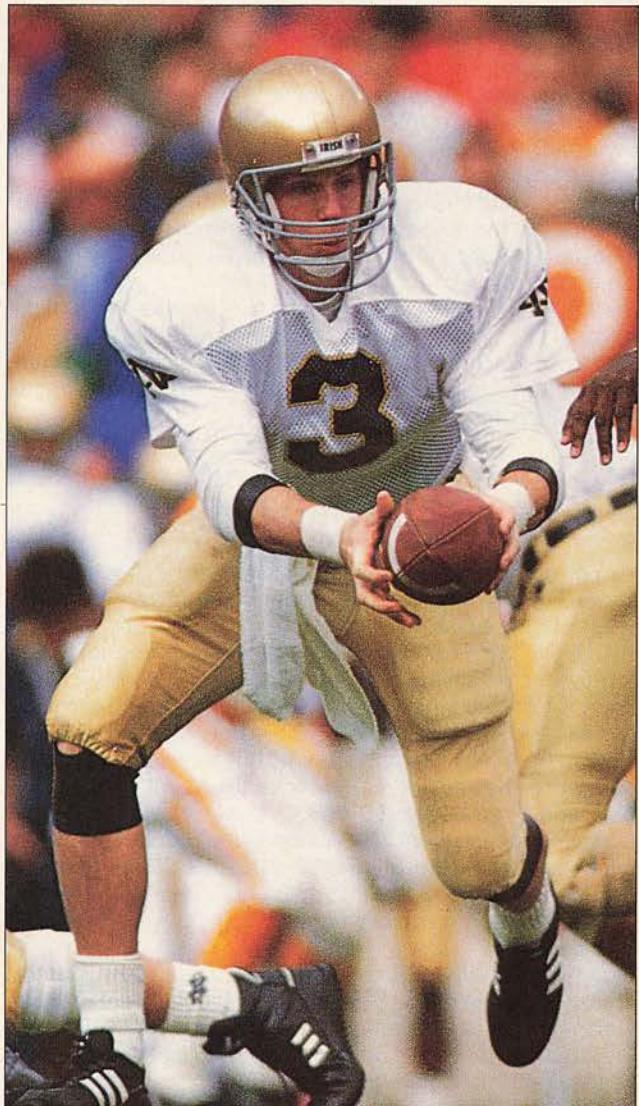
"As a matter of fact, I'll pick North Carolina to win the ACC," says ESPN analyst Mike Gottfried, momentarily forgetting about Florida State. "No, I take it back—to win the old league."

Out west, **California** and **Stanford** made major strides in 1992. You'll find both teams in most preseason polls, but we'll reserve judgment on them until after the year is over. It's not that Cal's Russell White and Stanford's Glyn

Milburn won't post Heisman-type numbers in leading their teams to postseason play. But Cal and Stanford were a combined 4-0 last year against UCLA and USC, the first time that's happened since 1941. And it may be another 50 years before it happens again.

Traditionalists will say you can't omit **Auburn** or **Michigan State** from your top 20 despite poor '91 seasons from both. Like it or not, however, they're still on the bubble. Both have the talent to prove us wrong, particularly Michigan State. Spartans running back Tico Duckett needs 809 rushing yards to reach 4,000 in his career, and converted quarterback Mill Coleman is a potentially explosive receiver.

A pair of teams coming off impressive bowl wins should not be forgotten. **Tulsa**, which quietly went 10-2 last season, has an excellent chance to equal that record in '92, especially if tailback Ron Jackson picks up where he left off in '91—rushing for 211 yards and four touchdowns in the Freedom Bowl. **Indiana**, off its 24-0 rout of



When Mirer isn't handing off to one of his talented backs, he'll be passing into the Irish record book.

Baylor in the Copper Bowl, must replace All-American Vaughn Dunbar, but unheralded quarterback Trent Green is more than capable of guiding the Hoosiers to another fine season.

On the heels of last season's thrill-a-minute 52-52 tie between **BYU** and **San Diego State**, the Cougars and Aztecs will again duke it out in the WAC. The Cougars have won three straight conference titles, but without Ty Detmer, they'll be hard-pressed to hold off the Aztecs. San Diego State's super sophomore Marshall Faulk is the most exciting running back to hit the collegiate scene since Emmitt Smith.

Where does **Tennessee** rate in this group? The Volunteers—29-6-2 over the last three seasons—can never be taken lightly, but Johnny Majors' squad has been decimated by graduation. Likewise, it will be a transition year for **Texas**, where offensive wiz John Mackovic takes over as coach. Mackovic may overhaul the Longhorns' passing attack, but he had better not overlook Earl Campbell—

It's not a matter of Notre Dame playing its worst. It's a matter of the defensive line staying healthy. That wasn't the case last year and it showed, as the run defense was nothing short of horrendous. But with players such as Bryant Young and Junior Bryant back in action, joining senior Eric Jones and a host of talented youngsters, look for the Irish defense to rebound in a big way.

And don't forget: Even with a defense that ranked 72nd in the nation last year, the Irish went 10-3 and knocked off Florida in the Sugar Bowl.

Offensively, the Irish will be near impossible to stop. The only real question is which Notre Dame player will take charge in the Heisman Trophy race—quarterback Rick Mirer or bruising fullback Jerome Bettis? They may end up cancelling each other out, but the final result will be worth it.

TOP
25

4. FLORIDA STATE

Bobby Bowden's troops have finished in the top five for five straight years, but are the Seminoles slipping?

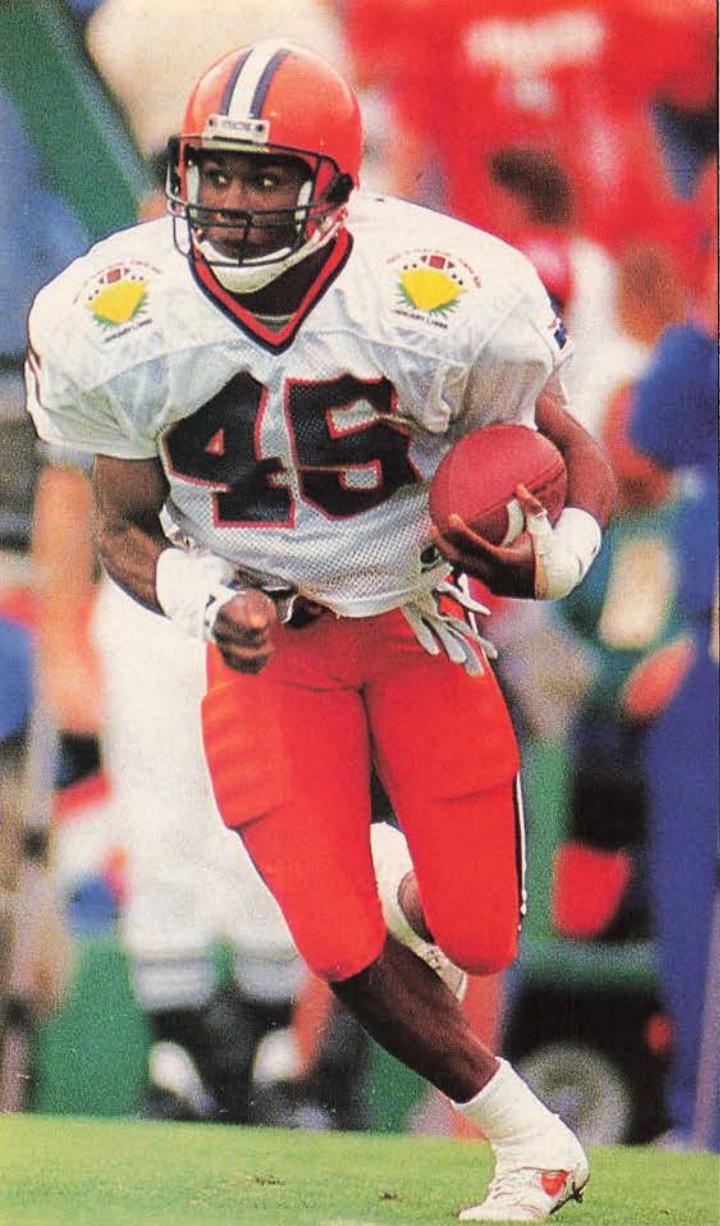
They were ranked as high as second in the nation in 1987, third in '88 and '89, and fourth the last two seasons. They appear to be firmly entrenched between state rivals: below Miami and above Florida. Bowden, whose career coaching record is a blazing 216-76-3, could be suffering from Bo Schembechler Disease: He's a great coach, but since he hasn't won a national championship yet, there's no reason to believe he ever will.

Of course, that's not to say that Florida State won't once again field one of the five best teams in the nation. Sure, the offense must make do without quarterback Casey Weldon, tailback Amp Lee and fullback Edgar Bennett, and the defense took a hit when cornerback Terrell Buckley decided to give up his senior year for the world of NFL riches, but the Seminoles are

clone Butch Hadnot in the backfield.

Among Texas' competitors for second place in the SWC behind Texas A&M is beleaguered **Houston**. We know; the Cougars crumbled last year when there were high expectations. But even without David Klingler leading the way, they'll put up a ton of points, and the defense, well, it can't get any worse.

Looking for a few more sleepers? Try these: **Kansas**, which made great strides a year ago, will again finish right behind the big three in the Big Eight. **LSU**, in Curley Hallman's second year of rebuilding, will be nobody's patsy. **Memphis State** and **Rutgers** could be major surprises. Memphis State's upset over USC last year was no fluke; the Tigers have a lot of talent and a schedule that could easily net a nine-win season. Rutgers appears ready to turn the corner as well, and if Miami transfer Bryan Fortay is the real deal at quarterback, the Scarlet Knights are a lock for third in the Big East. Of course, Don Nehlen's **West Virginia** squad could stand in the way.



TODD PRICE

Ismail's missilelike speed could propel the Orangemen to the top of the Big East.

still loaded.

This year, the defense takes center stage in Tallahassee. Linebacker Marvin Jones (who should be 1992's token defensive player to receive a smattering of Heisman votes) leads a unit that held 10 opponents to 17 points or less last year, including Syracuse (14), Miami (17), Florida (14 points) and Texas A&M (2).

5. WASHINGTON

Wouldn't it be great if college football teams could trade with one another?

Washington head coach Don James could then shop around one of his two outstanding quarterbacks for players who could fill the void left by 11 Huskies drafted into the NFL (most from any team in the country). Either Mark Brunell, the 1991 Rose Bowl MVP, or Billy Joe Hobert, the 1992 Rose Bowl MVP, could be shipped to a team that needed a quarter-

back and had a surplus of receivers or defensive linemen, which are the only two areas of need for the Huskies.

Alas, James is stuck with the luxury of having two great quarterbacks capable of guiding Washington to its third straight Pac-10 crown. "It's a situation that you could probably coach 100 years and wouldn't have it occur like this again," says James.

Brunell and Hobert will have to break in some new receivers, but the running game, led by Beno Bryant, is explosive, and the defense still features stellar linebacking and secondary units.

Can the Huskies go undefeated and earn a share of the national title, as they did last year? The only three teams that came within 15 points of Washington last year were Nebraska, California and USC, all of whom were playing at home. This season, they'll visit Seattle.

6. SYRACUSE

You can hear the whispers coming from the Carrier Dome. These Orangemen are quietly confident that they're on the verge of a big season.

"I think [this] year we should have a legitimate shot to be a top-five team," says Syracuse linebacker Dan Conley. "I don't know if it's voiced that much. I'm not looking past any teams, but we have the talent that we could go into Miami 10-0."

Conley, a tackling machine who missed most of last season with a knee injury, is referring to the Nov. 21 showdown between Syracuse and Big East rival Miami in the Carrier Dome. Syracuse went 10-2 last season, boasts a wealth of talent all over the football field, and has a schedule that can easily put it at 10-0 going into that regular-season finale. But do the Orangemen have what it takes to compete with the Hurricanes?

Why not? Marvin Graves is a veteran quarterback with a stellar receiving corps at his disposal; multithreat receiver Qadry Ismail is a Heisman candidate; David Walker is a 1,000-yard rusher; the defense was solid last year; and the healthy return of Conley provides a huge boost. The special-teams unit is the best in the nation.

"The guys on the team know how good we can be, even the young guys," says Conley. "It's gonna be an exciting year." Indeed.

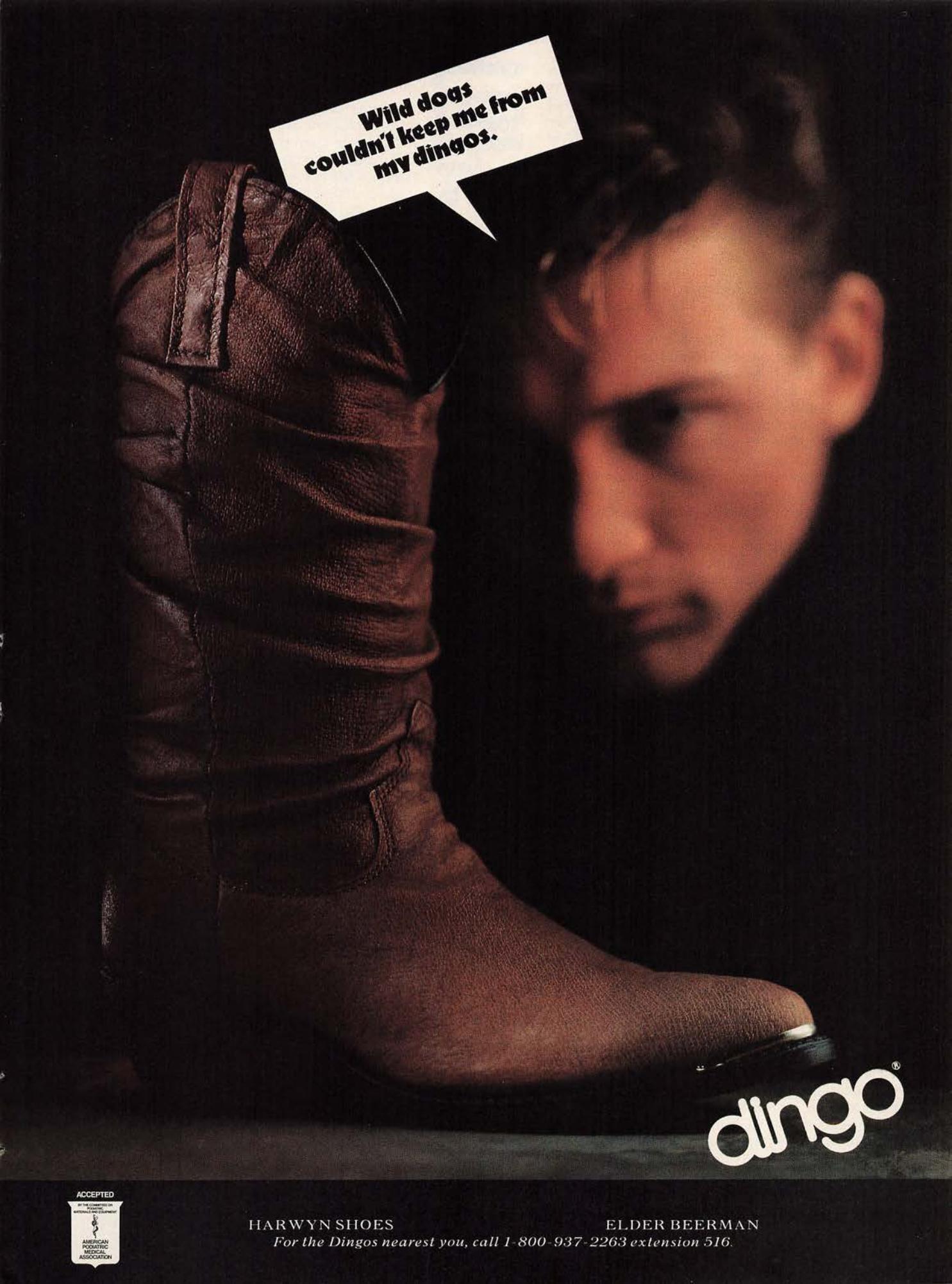
7. PENN STATE

You'd better believe that the masterminds who came up with the bowl alliance are quaking in their boots.

The bowl alliance, designed to increase the chances of a national-championship game on New Year's Day, has all bases covered with the exception of the Rose Bowl. But Penn State is not yet playing in the Big Ten, and since the Nittany Lions are shut out of the alliance, they are basically in limbo this season. That's why they agreed in May to play in the Blockbuster Bowl. All Joe Paterno has to do is guide his team to at least six wins, something he has failed to do just twice in his 26 years.

Even in limbo, Penn State can create havoc for the alliance. If Kerry Collins does just an adequate job filling in at quarterback for NFL-bound Tony Saccà, the Lions will be in the thick of the No. 1 hunt. Richie Anderson leads the way in a loaded backfield, and O.J. McDuffie belongs in the nation's elite class of multipurpose threats. The defense is, well, it's a Penn State defense. Bookend outside linebackers Reggie





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ELDER BEERMAN

Givens and Rich McKenzie spearhead the attack.

The Lions host Miami in October and travel to Notre Dame in November. If they win those games—a distinct possibility—they would end up playing a marginal top-20 team in the Blockbuster Bowl, making for the most embarrassing year in college football since BYU beat Michigan in the 1984 Holiday Bowl to win the national championship.

8. MICHIGAN

Flanker Derrick Alexander had 115 all-purpose yards in the first half of Michigan's opener at Boston College last year when a knee injury suddenly put an end to his season.

When he wasn't busy rehabilitating that knee, Alexander was watching teammate Desmond Howard catch all the passes, run all the reverses and return all the punts that might have gone his way. At the very least, a healthy Alexander would have shared the production with Howard, probably eliminating both of them from Heisman contention and handing the spotlight over to quarterback Elvis Grbac.

Alexander is "progressing well, but it's still up in the air as to where he'll be in the fall," says Wolverines assistant coach Cam Cameron. A healthy Alexander would buoy what is already one of the most lethal offensive juggernauts in the nation. Grbac, 23-5 as Michigan's starting quarterback, led the nation in passing efficiency last year, and the Wolverines possess one of the finest stables of running backs in the land. Don't be surprised if Ricky Powers and Tyrone Wheatley both rush for 1,000 yards.

The Wolverines have a somewhat no-name defense, but they're adept at holding opponents scoreless. They held their last six regular-season opponents last year to an average of 6.5 points.

9. NEBRASKA

It seems you can pencil in the same thing every year for Nebraska: 10-1, maybe 9-2, and a loss on New Year's Day. The Cornhuskers haven't won a bowl game in six years, but they also haven't lost more than two games in the regular season since 1977. You've got to give them points for consistency.

Despite its recent failures in bowl competition, Nebraska has at least one supporter this season in ESPN analyst Mike Gottfried.

"To me, they could have one of their best teams ever," says Gottfried. "A lot of things have got to happen, but I think this is going to be a great Nebraska team this year...could contend for the national title. They have so much depth."

They also have one of the nation's best running-back combinations in I-backs Derek Brown and Calvin Jones. While Big Eight rivals Oklahoma and Colorado work on revamping their passing attacks, Nebraska features an offense that has led the nation in rushing three of the last four years.

Gottfried says he would pick Nebraska somewhere in the middle of his preseason top 10, but admits that the more he thinks about it, the more he likes the Cornhuskers. "I wouldn't be surprised if, when the dust clears, they win the whole thing. I just keep thinking this can be their year."

With the departure of Desmond Howard, Grbac must carry more of Michigan's offensive load.

TOP
FIVE

10. TEXAS A&M

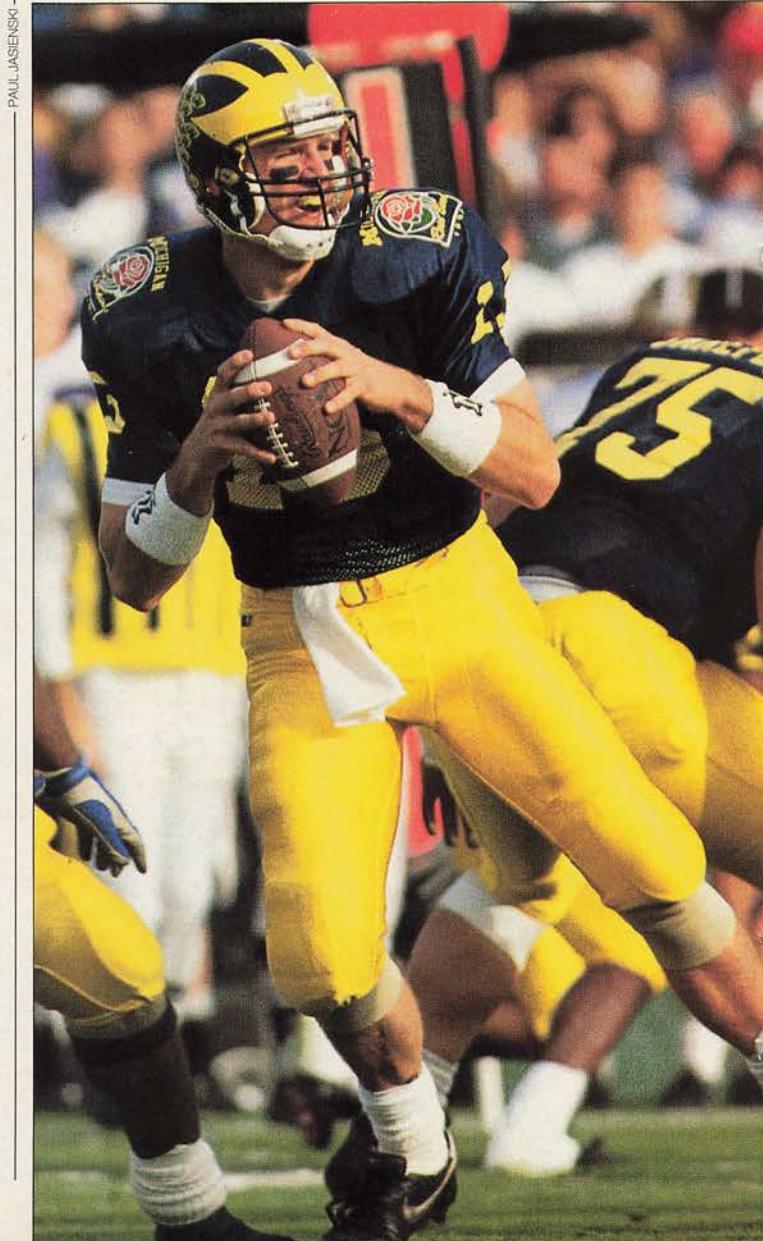
Texas A&M fans were delighted to see their team get a shot at one of the big boys when the Southwest Conference-champion Aggies faced Florida State in the Cotton Bowl last year. The game confirmed that Texas A&M has one of the finest defenses in the country. It held the high-scoring Seminoles to just 10 points and recorded a safety. Unfortunately for the Aggies, those were the only two points they scored.

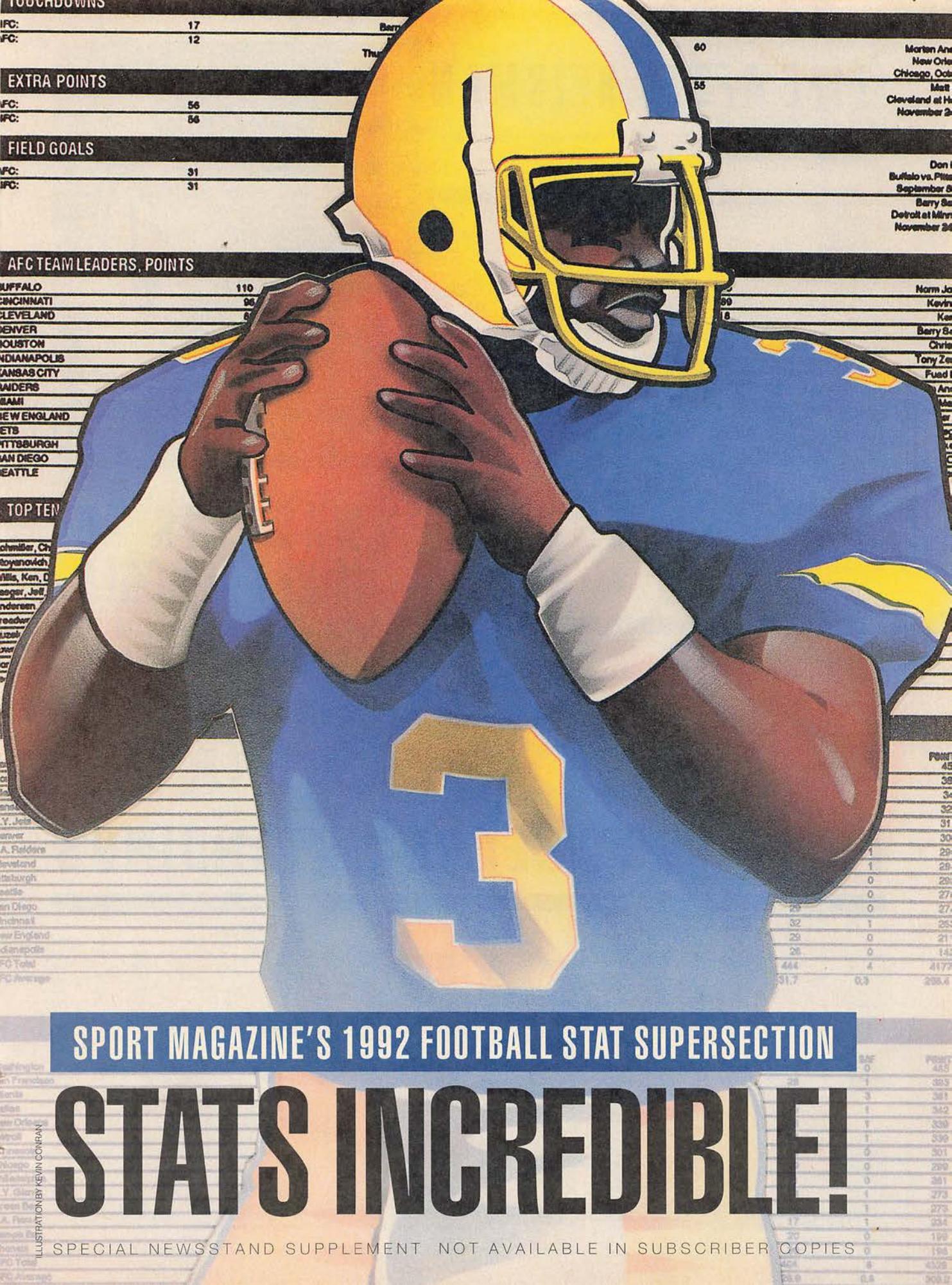
Head coach R.C. Slocum has cornered the market on talent in the Lone Star state. He has built the Aggies into an SWC powerhouse and has his kids believing that they can be a national powerhouse as well. Playing Florida State close was a good sign, but

Slocum wants more. In '92, he may get it.

Despite seeing two of their defensive starters taken in the first round of the NFL draft, the Aggies aren't concerned with that side of the line. Seven starters return to the nation's No. 1 defense, led by outside linebacker Marcus Buckley, a quarterback terrorizer who had 13 sacks in '91.

If the offense steps it up (and to be fair, the Aggies scored





TOUCHDOWNS		Barn		60		Morten An	
IFC:		17		60		Morten An	
IFC:		12		55		New Orle	
EXTRA POINTS		Barn		60		Chicago, Ode	
IFC:		56		55		Matt	
IFC:		56		55		Cleveland at H	
FIELD GOALS		Barn		60		November 2	
IFC:		31		55		Don	
IFC:		31		55		Buffalo vs. Pitts	
AFC TEAM LEADERS, POINTS		Barn		60		September 8	
BUFFALO		110		55		Berry Ga	
CINCINNATI		98		55		Detroit at Minn	
CLEVELAND		91		55		November 24	
DENVER		89		55		Norm Ja	
HOUSTON		87		55		Kevin	
INDIANAPOLIS		86		55		Ken	
KANSAS CITY		85		55		Berry Ba	
RAIDERS		84		55		Chris	
MIAMI		83		55		Tony Ze	
NEW ENGLAND		82		55		Fred	
JETS		81		55		An	
PITTSBURGH		80		55		Mar	
SAN DIEGO		79		55		er	
SEATTLE		78		55		20	
TOP TEN		Barn		60		31	
Schmiller, Ch		45		30		30	
Soyanovich,		38		22		29	
Wils, Ken, D		34		21		29	
Zagger, Jeff		32		20		29	
Andersen		31		19		29	
Reader		30		18		29	
Kuzel		30		17		29	
Y. Jets		29		16		29	
Ever		28		15		29	
A. Rodgers		28		14		29	
Cleveland		27		13		29	
Pittsburgh		26		12		29	
Seattle		25		11		29	
San Diego		25		10		29	
Inchinnan		24		9		29	
New England		23		8		29	
Indianapolis		23		7		29	
FG Total		22		6		29	
FG Average		21		5		29	
STATS INCREDIBLE!		Barn		60		21	
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STATS INCREDIBLE!		55		55		21	

LIFE AFTER HEISMAN

Since 1967, 16 of the last 24 Heisman Trophy winners have failed to live up to expectations in the NFL.

QUARTERBACKS

NAME	YEARS	ATTEMPTS	COMPLETIONS	YARDS	TDS	INT.
Steve Beban	2	1	0	0	0	0
Ty Detmer*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doug Flutie	4	341	166	2,203	14	16
Jim Plunkett	16	3,701	1,943	25,882	164	198
Pat Sullivan	4	220	93	1,155	5	16
Vinny Testaverde	5	1,802	920	12,266	63	96
Andre Ware	2	30	13	164	1	2

RUNNING BACKS

NAME	YEARS	ATTEMPTS	YARDS	AVERAGE	TDS
Earl Campbell**	7	2,187	9,407	4.3	74
John Cappelletti	10	824	2,751	3.3	24
Tony Dorsett	12	2,936	12,739	4.3	77
Archie Griffin***	7	691	2,808	4.1	7
Bo Jackson	4	515	2,782	5.4	16
Steve Owens	5	635	2,451	3.9	20
George Rogers	8	1,692	7,176	4.2	54
Mike Rozier	7	1,159	4,462	3.8	30
Barry Sanders	3	877	4,322	4.9	27
O.J. Simpson**	11	2,404	11,236	4.7	61
Billy Sims	5	1,131	5,106	4.5	42
Herschel Walker	6	1,354	5,652	4.2	46
Charles White	9	780	3,075	3.9	23

WIDE RECEIVERS

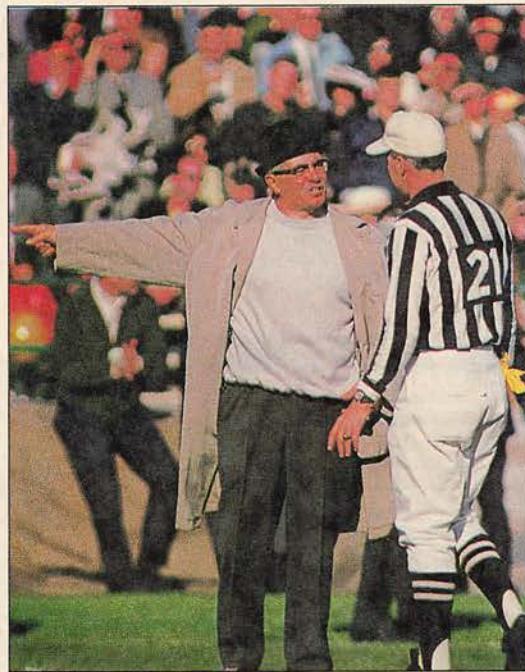
NAME	YEARS	RECEPTIONS	YARDS	AVERAGE	TDS
Tim Brown	4	98	1,552	15.8	13
Desmond Howard*	0	0	0	0	0
Johnny Rodgers	2	17	234	13.8	0

*Have yet to play in the NFL.

**Pro Football Hall of Famer

***Heisman Trophy Winner in 1974 and 1975

Compiled by William Ladson



SPORTS ARCHIVE

WARNING TO MIKE HOLMGREN

The list below shows how tough it is for coaches to fill Vince Lombardi's shoes in Green Bay.

NAME	YEARS	RECORD	PERCENTAGE
Phil Bengtson	1968-70	20-21-1	.488
Dan Devine	1971-74	25-28-4	.473
Bart Starr	1975-83	53-77-3	.417
Forrest Gregg	1984-87	24-37-1	.405
Lindy Infante	1988-91	24-40	.375

Compiled by William Ladson

FINAL 1991 SEASON STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	13	3	0	.813	458	318
**N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	.500	314	293
Miami	8	8	0	.500	343	349
New England	6	10	0	.375	211	305
Indianapolis	1	15	0	.063	143	381

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Houston	11	5	0	.688	386	251
Pittsburgh	7	9	0	.438	292	344
Cleveland	6	10	0	.375	293	298
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	263	435

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Denver	12	4	0	.750	304	235
**Kansas City	10	6	0	.625	322	252
**L.A. Raiders	9	7	0	.563	298	297
Seattle	7	9	0	.438	276	261
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	274	342

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Washington	14	2	0	.875	485	224
**Dallas	11	5	0	.688	342	310
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	285	244
N.Y. Giants	8	8	0	.500	281	297
Phoenix	4	12	0	.250	196	344

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Detroit	12	4	0	.750	339	295
**Chicago	11	5	0	.688	299	269
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	301	306
Green Bay	4	12	0	.250	273	313
Tampa Bay	3	13	0	.188	199	365

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
*New Orleans	11	5	0	.688	341	211
**Atlanta	10	6	0	.625	361	338
San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	393	239
L.A. Rams	3	13	0	.188	199	365

*Division Champion **Wild Card Team

New York Jets finished ahead of Miami based on head-to-head sweep (2-0).

Atlanta finished ahead of San Francisco based on head-to-head sweep (2-0).

FINAL 1991 SEASON STANDINGS

CLUB RANKINGS BY YARDS

OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
Atlanta	8	16	6	24	23
Buffalo	*1	*1	4	27	24
Chicago	11	9	13	4	10
Cincinnati	14	12	11	28	13
Cleveland	19	24	9	18	21
Dallas	9	13	8	17	8
Denver	12	8	17	5	19
Detroit	17	10	22	15	17
Green Bay	24	22	19	10	7
Houston	2	23	*1	9	6
Indianapolis	28	28	27	20	28
Kansas City	5	3	15	13	18
L.A. Raiders	23	15	25	21	22
L.A. Rams	18	27	7	23	12
Miami	7	25	3	25	27
					12

OFFENSE			DEFENSE		
Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
Minnesota	10	4	21	14	20
New England	22	18	16	26	9
New Orleans	15	14	10	2	2
N.Y. Giants	16	6	23	7	16
N.Y. Jets	6	5	12	4	24
Philadelphia	25	21	20	*1	*1
Phoenix	27	26	26	16	26
Pittsburgh	20	17	18	22	11
San Diego	13	2	24	19	14
San Francisco	3	11	2	6	5
Seattle	21	20	14	8	15
Tampa Bay	26	19	28	11	25
Washington	4	7	5	3	3

* = League leader

1991 AFC TAKEAWAYS/GIVEAWAYS

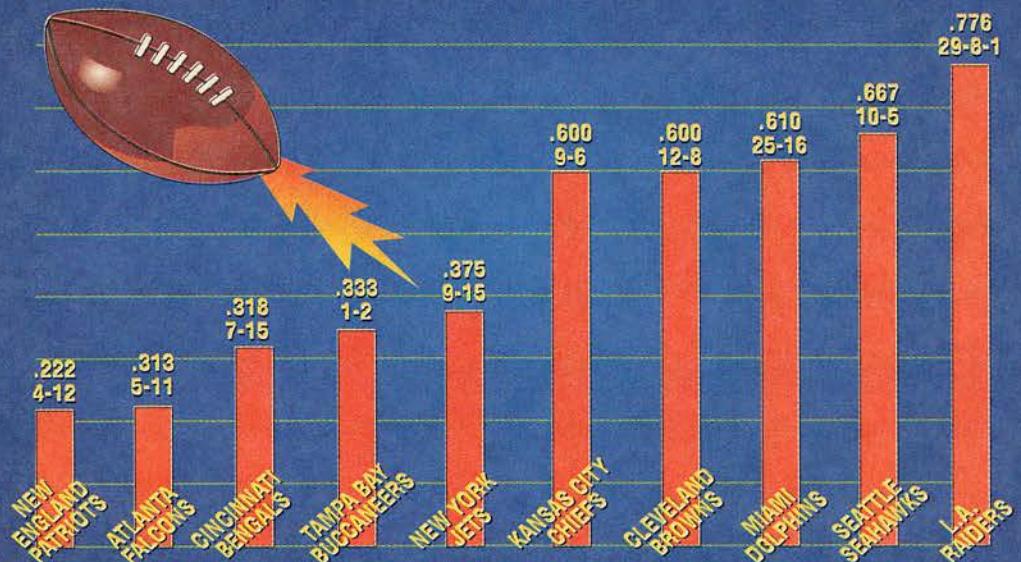
TAKEAWAYS			GIVEAWAYS			NET	
Int.	Fum.	Total	Int.	Fum.	Total	DIFF.	
Cleveland	15	18	33	10	8	18	15
Jets	18	19	37	12	13	25	12
Kansas City	15	18	33	14	8	22	11
Denver	23	10	33	12	13	25	8
Buffalo	23	14	37	19	16	35	2
Pittsburgh	19	11	30	16	14	30	0
Raiders	18	13	31	18	13	31	0
San Diego	19	9	28	16	12	28	0
Houston	20	18	38	21	19	40	-2
Indianapolis	15	13	28	16	15	31	-3
Seattle	18	21	39	26	17	43	-4
Miami	12	9	21	14	14	28	-7
Cincinnati	17	14	31	22	20	42	-11
New England	12	19	31	22	20	42	-11

1991 NFC TAKEAWAYS/GIVEAWAYS

TAKEAWAYS			GIVEAWAYS			NET	
Int.	Fum.	Total	Int.	Fum.	Total	DIFF.	
New Orleans	29	19	48	15	15	30	18
Washington	27	14	41	11	12	23	18
Detroit	19	17	36	17	13	30	6
Philadelphia	26	22	48	27	16	43	5
Minnesota	17	11	28	16	10	26	2
Atlanta	19	16	35	22	14	36	-1
Dallas	12	11	23	12	12	24	-1
Phoenix	17	21	38	25	14	39	-1
Giants	12	9	21	8	15	23	-2
Chicago	17	13	30	17	16	33	-3
San Francisco	12	16	28	12	19	31	-3
Green Bay	15	14	29	19	17	36	-7
Tampa Bay	11	16	27	29	18	47	-20
Rams	11	8	19	20	20	40	-21

MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS

The chart below shows that the Raiders and the Patriots have the best and worst records, respectively, when they appear on Monday Night Football.



TRACY CALVERT JANTZ

S C O R E I N G

POINTS		
NFC	149	Chip Lohmiller, Washington
AFC	121	Pete Stoyanovich, Miami
TOUCHDOWNS		
NFC	17	Barry Sanders, Detroit
AFC	12	Mark Clayton, Miami
		Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
EXTRA POINTS		
AFC	56	Scott Norwood, Buffalo
NFC	56	Chip Lohmiller, Washington
FIELD GOALS		
AFC	31	Pete Stoyanovich, Miami
NFC	31	Chip Lohmiller, Washington

FIELD GOAL ATTEMPTS		
NFC	43	Chip Lohmiller, Washington
AFC	37	Pat Leahy, Jets
LONGEST FIELD GOAL		
NFC	60	Morten Andersen, New Orleans vs. Chicago, October 27
AFC	55	Matt Stover, Cleveland at Houston, November 24
MOST POINTS, GAME		
AFC	24	Don Beebe, Buffalo vs. Pittsburgh, September 8 (4 TD)
NFC	24	Barry Sanders, Detroit at Minnesota, November 24 (4 TD)

AFC TEAM LEADERS, POINTS		
BUFFALO	110	Scott Norwood
CINCINNATI	96	Jim Breech
CLEVELAND	81	Matt Stover
DENVER	112	David Treadwell
HOUSTON	64	Ian Howfield
INDIANAPOLIS	59	Dean Biasucci
KANSAS CITY	110	Nick Lowery
RAIDERS	116	Jeff Jaeger
MIAMI	121	Pete Stoyanovich
NEW ENGLAND	49	Jason Stastrousky
JETS	108	Pat Leahy
PITTSBURGH	100	Gary Anderson
SAN DIEGO	88	John Carney
SEATTLE	102	John Kasay

NFC TEAM LEADERS, POINTS		
ATLANTA	95	Norm Johnson
CHICAGO	89	Kevin Butler
DALLAS	118	Ken Willis
DETROIT	102	Barry Sanders
GREEN BAY	85	Chris Jacke
RAMS	76	Tony Zendejas
MINNESOTA	85	Fuad Reveiz
NEW ORLEANS	113	Morten Andersen
GIANTS	90	Matt Bahr
PHILADELPHIA	111	Roger Ruzek
PHOENIX	82	Greg Davis
SAN FRANCISCO	91	Mike Cofer
TAMPA BAY	67	Steve Christie
WASHINGTON	149	Chip Lohmiller

TOP TEN SCORERS—KICKERS				
	XP	XPA	FG	FGA
Lohmiller, Chip, Wash.	56	56	31	43
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia.	28	29	31	37
Willis, Ken, Dall.	37	37	27	39
Jaeger, Jeff, Raiders	29	30	29	34
Andersen, Morten, N. O.	38	38	25	32
Treadwell, David, Den.	31	32	27	36
Ruzek, Roger, Phil.	27	29	28	33
Lowery, Nick, K.C.	35	35	25	30
Norwood, Scott, Buff.	56	58	18	29
Leahy, Pat, Jets	30	30	26	37
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TOP TEN SCORERS—NONKICKERS				
	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM
Sanders, Barry, Det.	17	16	1	0
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	14	0	14	0
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	13	12	1	0
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	12	0	12	0
Rison, Andre, Atl.	12	0	12	0
Thomas, Thurman, Buff.	12	7	5	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets	11	11	0	0
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	11	0	11	0
Hoard, Leroy, Clev.	11	2	9	0
Riggs, Gerald, Wash.	11	11	0	0
Workman, Vince, G.B.	11	7	4	0
				66

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—SCORING										
	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Buffalo	58	16	39	3	56	58	18	29	0	458
Houston	46	16	24	6	41	46	23	31	0	386
Miami	35	8	26	1	34	35	33	39	0	343
Kansas City	35	14	19	2	35	35	25	30	1	322
N.Y. Jets	32	17	12	3	32	32	30	43	0	314
Denver	32	16	13	3	31	32	27	36	0	304
L.A. Raiders	30	8	20	2	29	30	29	34	1	298
Cleveland	35	12	19	4	33	34	16	22	1	293
Pittsburgh	32	8	20	4	31	31	23	33	0	292
Seattle	29	11	15	3	27	29	25	31	0	276
San Diego	31	16	13	2	31	31	19	29	0	274
Cincinnati	27	11	14	2	27	27	24	32	1	263
New England	22	9	11	2	19	21	20	29	0	211
Indianapolis	14	3	10	1	14	14	15	26	0	143
AFC Total	458	165	255	38	440	455	327	444	4	4177
AFC Average	32.7	11.8	18.2	2.7	31.4	32.5	23.4	31.7	0.3	298.4

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—SCORING										
	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Washington	56	21	30	5	56	56	31	43	0	485
San Francisco	50	19	29	2	49	50	14	28	1	393
Atlanta	42	6	30	6	40	42	21	26	3	361
Dallas	37	15	16	6	37	37	27	39	1	342
New Orleans	38	15	20	3	38	38	25	32	0	341
Detroit	40	19	16	5	40	40	19	28	1	339
Minnesota	36	18	16	2	34	36	17	24	0	301
Chicago	35	18	16	1	32	34	19	29	0	299
Philadelphia	29	8	17	4	27	29	28	33	0	285
N.Y. Giants	30	16	13	1	29	30	24	31	0	281
Green Bay	31	12	17	2	31	31	18	24	1	273
L.A. Rams	26	11	13	2	25	26	17	17	1	234
Tampa Bay	22	9	13	0	22	22	15	20	0	199
Phoenix	19	6	10	3	19	19	21	30	0	196
NFC Total	491	193	256	42	479	490	296	404	8	4329
NFC Average	35.1	13.8	18.3	3.0	34.2	35.0	21.1	28.9	0.6	309.2
NFL Total	949	358	511	80	919	945	623	848	12	8506
NFL Average	33.9	12.8	18.3	2.9	32.8	33.8	22.3	30.3	0.4	303.8

R U S H I N G

YARDS		
NFC	1563	Emmitt Smith, Dallas
AFC	1407	Thurman Thomas, Buffalo

YARDS, GAME		
NFC	220	Barry Sanders, Detroit at Minnesota, November 24 (23 attempts, 4 TD)
AFC	165	Thurman Thomas, Buffalo vs. Miami, September 1, (25 attempts, TD)

LONGEST		
AFC	78	Kenneth Davis, Buffalo vs. Indianapolis October 13, -TD
NFC	75	Emmitt Smith, Dallas vs. Washington, September 9, -TD

ATTEMPTS		
NFC	365	Emmitt Smith, Dallas
AFC	288	Thurman Thomas, Buffalo

AFC TEAM LEADERS, YARDS		
BUFFALO	1407	Thurman Thomas
CINCINNATI	731	Harold Green
CLEVELAND	726	Kevin Mack
DENVER	1037	Gaston Green
HOUSTON	720	Allen Pinkett
INDIANAPOLIS	536	Eric Dickerson
KANSAS CITY	1031	Christian Okoye
RAIDERS	590	Roger Craig
MIAMI	905	Mark Higgs
NEW ENGLAND	959	Leonard Russell
JETS	728	Blair Thomas
PITTSBURGH	610	Merril Hoge
SAN DIEGO	834	Marion Butts
SEATTLE	741	John L Williams

TEAM CHAMPION		
AFC	2381	Buffalo
NFC	2201	Minnesota

TOP TEN RUSHERS					
Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	365	1563	4.3	175	12
Sanders, Barry, Det.	342	1548	4.5	169	16
Thomas, Thurman, Buff.	288	1407	4.9	33	7
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	256	1059	4.1	44	10
Byner, Earnest, Wash.	274	1048	3.8	32	5

AFC—INDIVIDUAL RUSHER					
Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	
Thomas, Thurman, Buff.	288	1407	4.9	33	7
Green, Gaston, Den.	261	1037	4.0	163	4
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	225	1031	4.6	48	9
Russell, Leonard, N.E.	266	959	3.6	24	4
Higgs, Mark, Mia.	231	905	3.9	24	4
Butts, Marion, S.D.	193	834	4.3	44	6
Bernstein, Rod, S.D.	159	766	4.8	163	8
Williams, John L, Sea.	188	741	3.9	42	4
Green, Harold, Cin.	158	731	4.6	175	2
Thomas, Blair, Jets	189	728	3.9	25	3

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—RUSHING					
Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	
Buffalo	505	2381	4.7	178	16
San Diego	464	2248	4.8	163	16
Kansas City	521	2217	4.3	48	14
N.Y. Jets	523	2160	4.1	58	17
Denver	507	2015	4.0	163	16
Cincinnati	449	1811	4.0	175	11
LA Raiders	446	1706	3.8	26	8
Pittsburgh	394	1627	4.1	156	8
New England	433	1467	3.4	24	9
Seattle	394	1426	3.6	42	11
Houston	331	1366	4.1	139	16
Cleveland	389	1360	3.5	52	12
Miami	379	1352	3.6	24	8
Indianapolis	354	1169	3.3	44	3
AFC Total	6089	24305	—	178	165
AFC Average	434.9	1736.1	4.0	—	11.8

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—RUSHING					
Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	
Minnesota	464	2201	4.7	171	18
N.Y. Giants	487	2064	4.2	147	16
Washington	540	2049	3.8	165	21
Chicago	502	1949	3.9	142	18
Detroit	454	1930	4.3	169	19
San Francisco	440	1861	4.2	153	19
Dallas	433	1711	4.0	175	15
New Orleans	483	1709	3.5	165	15
Atlanta	410	1664	4.1	36	6
Tampa Bay	371	1429	3.9	164	9
Philadelphia	446	1396	3.1	28	8
Green Bay	381	1389	3.6	48	12
Phoenix	391	1295	3.3	22	6
L.A. Rams	388	1285	3.3	36	11
NFC Total	6190	23932	—	175	193
NFC Average	442.1	1709.4	3.9	—	13.8
League Total	12279	48237	—	178	358
League Average	438.5	1722.8	3.9	—	12.8

P A S I N G

HIGHEST RATING		
NFC	101.8	Steve Young, San Francisco
AFC	97.6	Jim Kelly, Buffalo
COMPLETION PERCENTAGE		
AFC	65.6	Dave Krieg, Seattle
NFC	65.3	Troy Aikman, Dallas
ATTEMPTS		
AFC	655	Warren Moon, Houston
NFC	490	Jim Everett, Rams
COMPLETIONS		
AFC	404	Warren Moon, Houston
NFC	277	Jim Everett, Rams
YARDS		
AFC	4690	Warren Moon, Houston
NFC	3564	Mark Rypien, Washington
YARDS, GAME		
NFC	442	Mark Rypien, Washington vs. Atlanta November 10 (16-31, 6 TD)
AFC	432	Warren Moon, Houston vs. Dallas, November 10, (41-56) (OT)

LONGEST		
NFC	97	Steve Young (to John Taylor), San Francisco at Atlanta, November 3—TD
AFC	89	Neil O'Donnell (to Dwight Stone), Pittsburgh vs. San Diego, September 1—TD
YARDS PER ATTEMPT		
NFC	9.02	Steve Young, San Francisco
AFC	8.11	Jim Kelly, Buffalo
TOUCHDOWN PASSES		
AFC	33	Jim Kelly, Buffalo
NFC	28	Mark Rypien, Washington
TOUCHDOWN PASSES, GAME		
AFC	6	Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Pittsburgh, September 8, (31-43, 363 yards)
NFC	6	Mark Rypien, Washington vs. Atlanta, November 10, (16-31, 442 yards)
LOWEST INTERCEPTION PERCENTAGE		
NFC	1.4	Jeff Hostetler, Giants
AFC	1.8	Bernie Kosar, Cleveland
TEAM CHAMPION (MOST YARDS)		
AFC	4621	Houston
NFC	3997	San Francisco

TOP TEN PASSERS																
	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Sack	Yds Long	Rating Points			
Young, Steve, S.F.	279	180	64.5	2517	9.02	17	6.1	197	8	2.9	13	79	101.8			
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	421	249	59.1	3564	8.47	28	6.7	182	11	2.6	7	59	97.9			
Kelly, Jim, Buff.	474	304	64.1	3844	8.11	33	7.0	177	17	3.6	31	227	97.6			
Bono, Steve, S.F.	237	141	59.5	1617	6.82	11	4.8	78	4	1.7	11	91	88.5			
Kosar, Bernie, Clev.	494	307	62.1	3487	7.06	18	3.6	171	9	1.8	41	232	87.8			
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	363	237	65.3	2754	7.59	11	3.0	61	10	2.8	32	224	86.7			
Marino, Dan, Mia.	549	318	57.9	3970	7.23	25	4.6	54	13	2.4	27	182	85.8			
Hostetler, Jeff, Giants	285	179	62.8	2032	7.13	5	1.8	55	4	1.4	20	100	84.1			
Krieg, Dave, Sea.	285	187	65.6	2080	7.30	11	3.9	60	12	4.2	32	216	82.5			
Moon, Warren, Hou.	655	404	61.7	4690	7.16	23	3.5	161	21	3.2	23	174	81.7			

NFC—INDIVIDUAL PASSERS																
	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Sack	Yds Lost	Rating Points			
Young, Steve, S.F.	279	180	64.5	2517	9.02	17	6.1	197	8	2.9	13	79	101.8			
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	421	249	59.1	3564	8.47	28	6.7	182	11	2.6	7	59	97.9			
Bono, Steve, S.F.	237	141	59.5	1617	6.82	11	4.6	78	4	1.7	11	91	88.5			
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	363	237	65.3	2754	7.59	11	3.0	61	10	2.8	32	224	86.7			
Hostetler, Jeff, Giants	285	179	62.8	2032	7.13	5	1.8	55	4	1.4	20	100	84.1			
Gannon, Rich, Minn.	354	211	59.6	2166	6.12	12	3.4	50	6	1.7	19	91	81.5			
Miller, Chris, Atl.	413	220	53.3	3103	7.51	26	6.3	180	18	4.4	23	145	80.6			
McMahon, Jim, Phil.	311	187	60.1	2239	7.20	12	3.9	175	11	3.5	21	128	80.3			
Walsh, Steve, N.O.	255	141	55.3	1638	6.42	11	4.3	41	6	2.4	3	26	79.5			
Hebert, Jim, N.O.	248	149	60.1	1676	6.76	9	3.6	165	8	3.2	16	134	79.0			
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	478	275	57.5	3121	6.53	15	3.1	184	16	3.3	24	163	73.7			
Tomczak, Mike, G.B.	238	128	53.8	1490	6.26	11	4.6	175	9	3.8	13	105	72.6			
Kramer, Erik, Det.	265	136	51.3	1635	6.17	11	4.2	173	8	3.0	14	74	71.8			
Everett, Jim, Rams	490	277	56.5	3438	7.02	11	2.2	78	20	4.1	30	200	68.9			
Tupa, Tom, Phoe.	315	165	52.4	2053	6.52	6	1.9	162	13	4.1	24	197	62.0			
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	226	115	50.9	1362	6.03	3	1.3	39	8	3.5	30	152	59.3			
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	326	166	50.9	1994	6.12	8	2.5	187	15	4.6	35	234	59.0			
Kemp, Jeff, Sea.-Phi.	295	151	51.2	1753	5.94	9	3.1	57	17	5.8	20	99	55.7			

AFC—INDIVIDUAL PASSERS																
	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Sack	Yds Lost	Rating Points			
Kelly, Jim, Buff.	474	304	64.1	3844	8.11	33	7.0	177	17	3.6	31	227	97.6			
Kosar, Bernie, Clev.	494	307	62.1	3487	7.06	18	3.6	171	9	1.8	41	232	87.8			
Marino, Dan, Mia.	549	318	57.9	3970	7.23	25	4.6	54	13	2.4	27	182	85.8			
Krieg, Dave, Sea.	285	187	65.6	2080	7.30	11	3.9	60	12	4.2	32	216	82.5			
Moon, Warren, Hou.	655	404	61.7	4690	7.16	23	3.5	161	21	3.2	23	174	81.7			
DeBerg, Steve, K.C.	434	256	59.0	2965	6.83	17	3.9	63	14	3.2	19	161	79.3			
O'Donnell, Neil, Pitt.	286	156	54.5	1963	6.86	11	3.8	189	7	2.4	30	214	78.8			
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	489	287	58.7	3300	6.75	10	2.0	53	11	2.2	33	273	76.6			
Elway, John, Den.	451	242	53.7	3253	7.21	13	2.9	71	12	2.7	45	305	75.4			
George, Jeff, Ind.	485	292	60.2	2910	6.00	10	2.1	149	12	2.5	56	481	73.8			
Esiason, Boomer, Cin.	413	233	56.4	2883	6.98	13	3.1	53	16	3.9	25	190	72.5			
Millen, Hugh, N.E.	409	246	60.1	3073	7.51	9	2.2	160	18	4.4	54	379	72.5			
Schroeder, Jay, Raiders	357	189	52.9	2562	7.18	15	4.2	178	16	4.5	31	238	71.4			
Friesz, John, S.D.	487	262	53.8	2896	5.95	12	2.5	58	15	3.1	32	214	67.1			

P A S S I N G

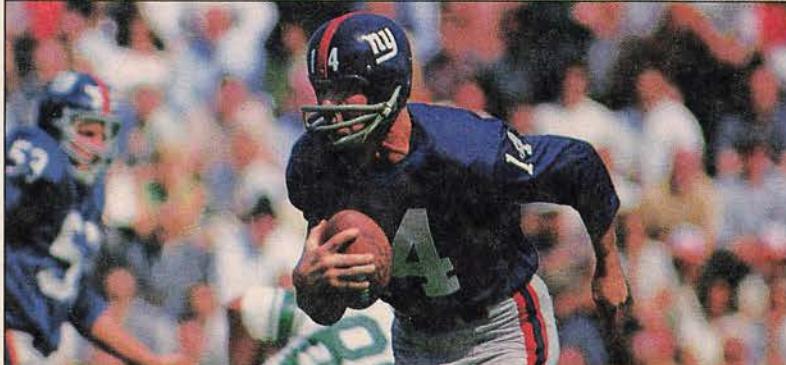
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—PASSING

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Gross Yards	Sacked	Yds Lost	Net Yards	Yds/ Att	Yds/ Comp	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int
Houston	667	411	61.1	4804	24	183	4621	7.20	11.69	24	3.6	168	21	3.1
Miami	563	327	58.1	4077	28	188	3889	7.24	12.47	26	4.6	54	14	2.5
Buffalo	516	332	64.3	4140	35	269	3871	8.02	12.47	39	7.6	177	19	3.7
Cleveland	503	312	62.0	3547	42	243	3304	7.05	11.37	19	3.8	171	10	2.0
Cincinnati	511	290	56.8	3413	33	255	3158	6.68	11.77	14	2.7	53	22	4.3
N.Y. Jets	503	295	58.6	3429	33	273	3156	6.82	11.62	12	2.4	53	12	2.4
Seattle	488	290	59.4	3371	42	263	3108	6.91	11.62	15	3.1	60	26	5.3
Kansas City	479	284	59.3	3281	21	177	3104	6.85	11.55	19	4.0	63	14	2.9
New England	481	284	59.0	3442	63	436	3006	7.16	12.12	11	2.3	160	22	4.6
Denver	459	246	53.6	3310	46	313	2997	7.21	13.46	13	2.8	71	12	2.6
Pittsburgh	476	259	54.4	3313	45	359	2954	6.96	12.79	20	4.2	189	16	3.4
San Diego	511	272	53.2	2983	35	236	2747	5.84	10.97	13	2.5	58	16	3.1
L.A. Raiders	414	220	53.1	2977	33	258	2719	7.19	13.53	20	4.8	80	18	4.3
Indianapolis	512	305	59.6	3066	57	487	2579	5.99	10.05	10	2.0	149	16	3.1
AFC Total	7083	4127	—	49153	537	3940	45213	—	—	255	—	189	238	—
AFC Average	505.9	294.8	58.3	3510.9	38.4	281.4	3229.5	6.94	11.91	18.2	3.6	—	17.0	3.4

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—PASSING

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Gross Yards	Sacked	Yds Lost	Net Yards	Yds/ Att	Yds/ Comp	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int
San Francisco	522	325	62.3	4167	24	170	3997	7.98	12.82	29	5.6	97	12	2.3
Washington	447	261	58.4	3771	9	79	3692	8.44	14.45	30	6.7	82	11	2.5
Atlanta	500	260	52.0	3634	31	185	3449	7.27	13.98	30	6.0	80	22	4.4
L.A. Rams	518	289	55.8	3610	30	200	3410	6.97	12.49	13	2.5	78	20	3.9
Dallas	500	305	61.0	3663	38	273	3390	7.33	12.01	16	3.2	66	12	2.4
New Orleans	506	292	57.7	3419	19	160	3259	6.76	11.71	20	4.0	65	15	3.0
Chicago	497	286	57.5	3292	26	172	3120	6.62	11.51	16	3.2	84	17	3.4
Green Bay	514	272	52.9	3213	45	270	2943	6.25	11.81	17	3.3	75	19	3.7
Philadelphia	513	285	55.6	3169	45	263	2906	6.18	11.12	17	3.3	75	27	5.3
Minnesota	477	284	59.5	3016	28	133	2883	6.32	10.62	16	3.4	50	16	3.4
Detroit	459	252	54.9	2974	25	116	2858	6.48	11.80	16	3.5	73	17	3.7
N.Y. Giants	428	261	61.0	3025	36	181	2844	7.07	11.59	13	3.0	55	8	1.9
Phoenix	492	254	51.6	3039	43	372	2667	6.18	11.96	10	2.0	62	25	5.1
Tampa Bay	495	250	50.5	2955	56	383	2572	5.97	11.82	13	2.6	87	29	5.9
NFC Total	6868	3876	—	46947	455	2957	43990	—	—	256	—	97	250	—
NFC Average	490.6	276.9	56.4	3353.4	32.5	211.2	3142.1	6.84	12.11	18.3	3.7	—	179	3.6
League Total	13951	8003	—	96100	992	6897	89203	—	—	511	—	97	488	—
League Average	498.3	285.8	57.4	3432.1	35.4	246.3	3185.8	6.89	12.01	18.3	3.7	—	17.4	3.5

FOCUS ON SPORTS

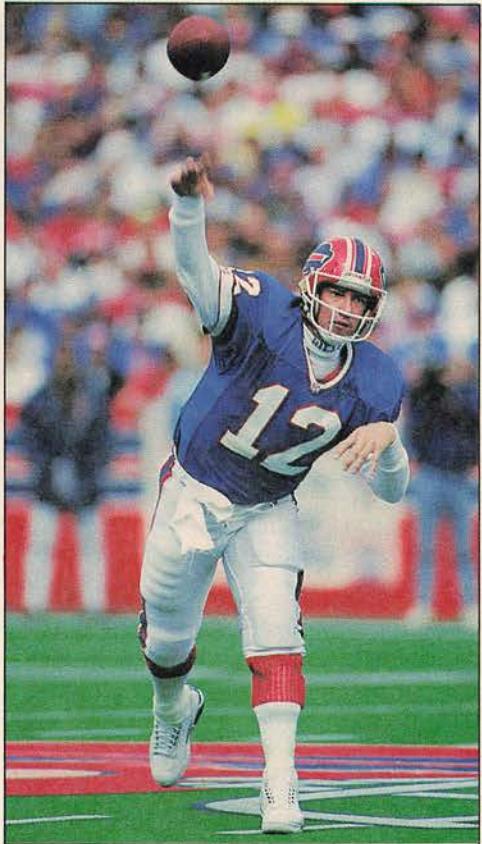


TOUCHDOWNS VS. INTERCEPTIONS

The list below reveals that nine out of the 19 quarterbacks in the Hall of Fame had more interceptions than touchdowns.

QUARTERBACK	TOUCHDOWNS	INTERCEPTIONS	WINNING PERCENTAGE
Sammy Baugh	187	203	.578
George Blanda	236	277	.635
Otto Graham	88	94	.813
Arnie Herber	78	106	.657
Bobby Layne	196	243	.590
Joe Namath	173	220	.473
Y.A. Tittle (pictured)	212	221	.564
Norm Van Brocklin	173	178	.611
Bob Waterfield	97	128	.679

Compiled by William Ladson



Jim Kelly

BRUNN-VAN LONKHUISEN

PASS RECEIVING

RECEPTIONS		
AFC	100	Haywood Jeffires, Houston
NFC	93	Michael Irvin, Dallas
RECEPTIONS, GAME		
AFC	13	Thurman Thomas, Buffalo at Jets, September 15, (112 yards, TD)
		Haywood Jeffires, Houston at Jets, October 13 (186 yards)
NFC	11	Jay Novacek, Dallas at Green Bay, October 6, (121 yards, TD)
YARDS		
NFC	1523	Michael Irvin, Dallas
AFC	1181	Haywood Jeffires, Houston
YARDS, GAME		
AFC	220	James Lofton, Buffalo vs. Cincinnati, October 21, (8 reception-2 TD)

LONGEST		
NFC	97	John Taylor, (from Steve Young) San Francisco at Atlanta November 3-TD
YARDS PER RECEPTION		
NFC	22.4	Michael Haynes, Atlanta
AFC	20.3	Dwight Stone, Pittsburgh
TOUCHDOWNS		
NFC	14	Jerry Rice, San Francisco
AFC	12	Mark Clayton, Miami

AFC—TEAM LEADERS, RECEPTIONS		
BUFFALO	81	Andre Reed
CINCINNATI	59	Eddie Brown
CLEVELAND	64	Webster Slaughter
DENVER	44	Mike Young
HOUSTON	100	Haywood Jeffires
INDIANAPOLIS	72	Bill Brooks
KANSAS CITY	43	Rob Thomas
RAIDERS	53	Ethan Horton
MIAMI	70	Mark Clayton
NEW ENGLAND	82	Mark Duper
JETS	74	Marv Cook
PITTSBURGH	55	Al Toon
SAN DIEGO	59	Louis Lipps
SEATTLE	70	Ronnie Harmon
		Brian Blades

NFC—TEAM LEADERS RECEPTIONS		
ATLANTA	81	Andre Rison
CHICAGO	61	Wendell Davis
DALLAS	93	Michael Irvin
DETROIT	52	Brett Perriman
GREEN BAY	69	Sterling Sharpe
RAMS	64	Henry Ellard
MINNESOTA	72	Cris Carter
NEW ORLEANS	66	Eric Martin
GIANTS	51	Mark Ingram
PHILADELPHIA	62	Fred Barnett
PHOENIX	61	Keith Byars
SAN FRANCISCO	80	Ernie Jones
TAMPA BAY	55	Jerry Rice
WASHINGTON	71	Lawrence Dawsey
		Art Monk

MITCHELL REBEL

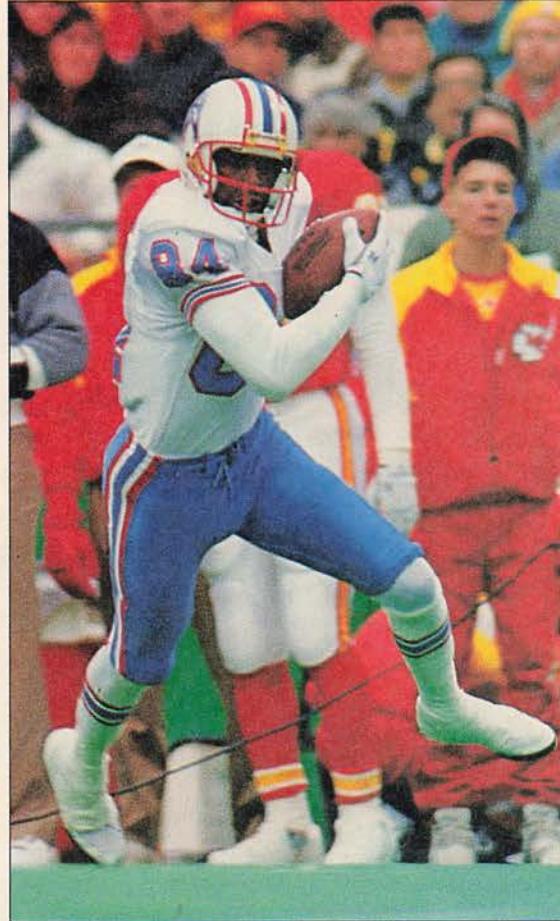


LYNN SWANN TO THE HALL?

If you went by Super Bowl performances, Lynn Swann (pictured) belongs in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. His leaping ability and sure hands helped the Pittsburgh Steelers win four NFL championships in the 1970s. But does Swann's regular-season performance warrant an induction? SPORT has decided to compare Swann's statistics to wide receivers already in the Hall.

NAME	YEARS	RECEPTIONS	YARDS	AVG.	TDs	CHAMPIONSHIPS
Lynn Swann	9	336	5,462	16.3	51	four
Lance Alworth	11	542	10,266	18.9	85	two
Raymond Berry	13	631	9,275	14.7	68	two
Fred Biletnikoff	14	589	8,974	15.2	76	one
Don Maynard	14	633	11,834	18.7	88	one
Bobby Mitchell	11	521	7,954	15.3	65	zero
Charley Taylor	13	649	9,140	14.2	79	zero
Paul Warfield	13	427	8,565	20.1	85	three

Compiled by William Ladson

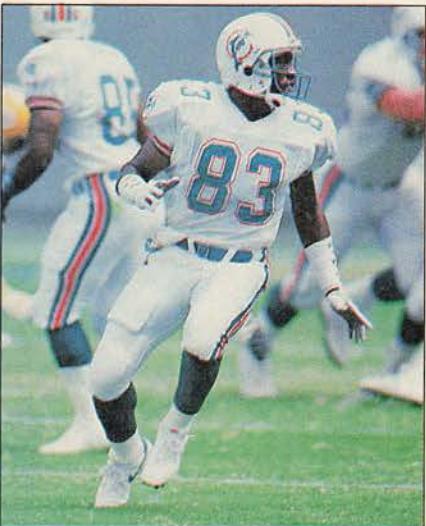


Haywood Jeffires

RON WESELY



Gary Clark



Mark Clayton



SUPER BOWL FICTION

The list below shows that a starting quarterback doesn't need to pass for 200 or more yards in order for his team to win the Super Bowl.

SUPER BOWL	QUARTERBACK	TEAM	YARDS	SCORE
IV	Len Dawson*	Chiefs	142	23-7
V	Johnny Unitas	Colts	88	16-13
VI	Roger Staubach*	Cowboys	119	24-3
VII	Bob Griese	Dolphins	88	14-7
VIII	Bob Griese	Dolphins	73	24-7
IX	Terry Bradshaw	Steelers	96	16-6
XI	Ken Stabler	Raiders	180	32-14
XII	Roger Staubach	Cowboys	183	27-10
XVI	Joe Montana*	49ers	157	26-21
XVII	Joe Theismann	Redskins	143	27-17
XVIII	Jim Plunkett	Raiders	172	38-9

*Super Bowl MVP
Compiled by William Ladson

PASS RECEIVING

TOP TEN PASS RECEIVERS

No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	100	1181	11.8	44
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	93	1523	16.4	166
Hill, Drew, Hou.	90	1109	12.3	161
Cook, Marv, N.E.	82	808	9.9	49
Reed, Andre, Buff.	81	1113	13.7	55
Rison, Andre, Atl.	81	976	12.0	139
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	80	1206	15.1	173
Toon, Al, Jets	74	963	13.0	32
Carter, Cris, Minn.	72	962	13.4	50
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	72	888	12.3	46

TOP TEN RECEIVERS BY YARDS

Yards	No	Avg	Long	TD
Irvin, Michael, Dall	1523	93	16.4	166
Clark, Gary, Wash.	1340	70	19.1	182
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	1206	80	15.1	173
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	1181	100	11.8	44
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	1122	50	22.4	180
Reed, Andre, Buff.	1113	81	13.7	55
Hill, Drew, Hou.	1109	90	12.3	161
Duper, Mark, Mia.	1085	70	15.5	143
Lofton, James, Buff.	1072	57	18.8	177
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	1053	70	15.0	143

AFC—INDIVIDUAL RECEIVERS

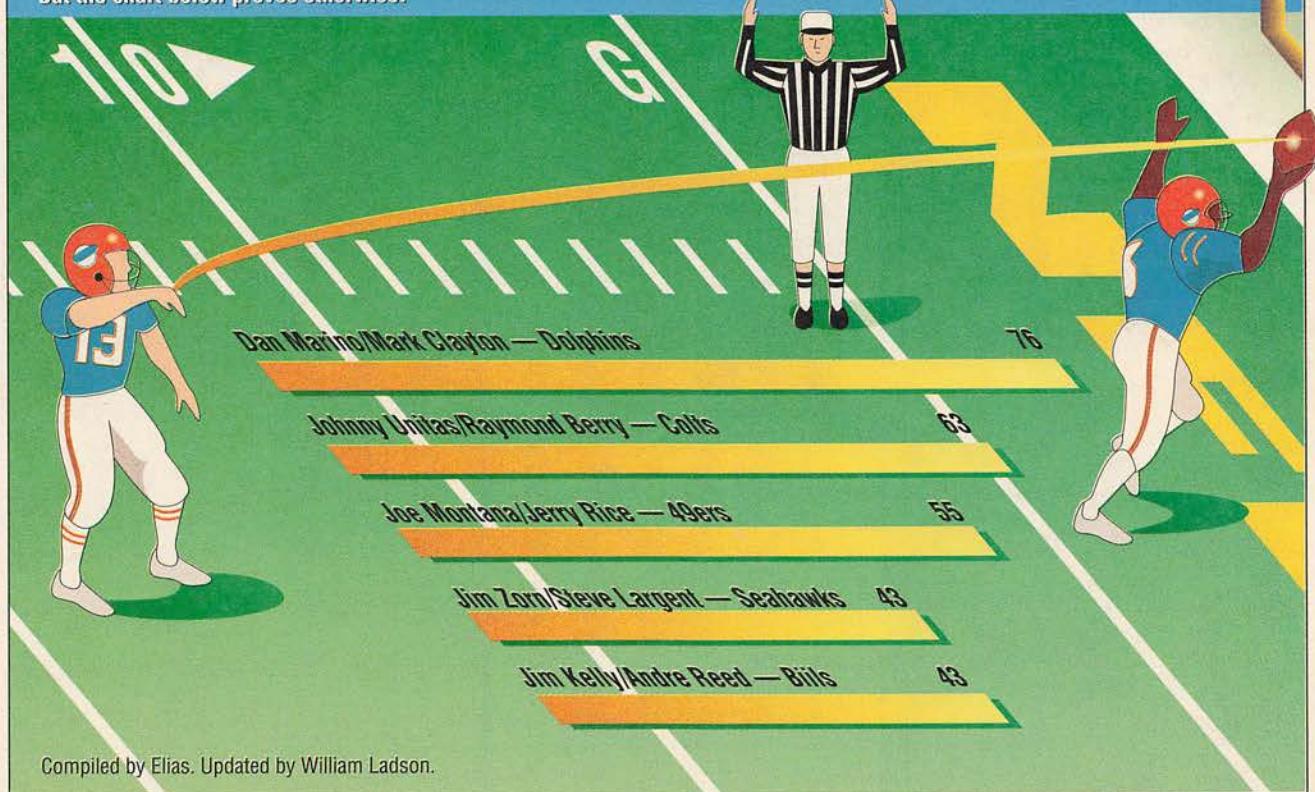
No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	100	1181	11.8	44
Hill, Drew, Hou.	90	1109	12.3	161
Cook, Marv, N.E.	82	808	9.9	49
Reed, Andre, Buff.	81	1113	13.7	55
Toon, Al, Jets	74	963	13.0	32
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	72	888	12.3	46
Duper, Mark, Mia.	70	1085	15.5	143
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	70	1053	15.0	143
Blades, Brian, Sea.	70	1003	14.3	52
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	70	996	14.2	49

NFC—INDIVIDUAL RECEIVERS

No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Irvin, Michael, Dall	93	1523	16.4	166
Rison, Andre, Atl.	81	976	12.0	139
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	80	1206	15.1	173
Carter, Cris, Minn.	72	962	13.4	50
Monk, Art, Wash.	71	1049	14.8	164
Clark, Gary, Wash.	70	1340	19.1	182
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	69	961	13.9	158
Martin, Eric, N.O.	66	803	12.2	30
Ellard, Henry, Rams	64	1052	16.4	38
Taylor, John, S.F.	64	1011	15.8	197

PERFECT COMBINATION

So you thought that Joe Montana and Jerry Rice were the best scoring duo in NFL history. But the chart below proves otherwise.



Compiled by Elias. Updated by William Ladson.

S A C K S

MOST SACKS

NFC	170	Pat Swilling, New Orleans
AFC	150	William Fuller, Houston

TEAM CHAMPION

NFC	55	Philadelphia
AFC	52	Denver

TOP TEN LEADERS—SACKS

Swilling, Pat, N.O.	17.0
Fuller, William, Hou.	15.0
White, Reggie, Phil.	15.0
Fletcher, Simon, Den.	13.5
Thomas, Derrick, K.C.	13.5

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—SACKS

	Sacks	Yards
Denver	52	346
Houston	45	314
L.A. Raiders	42	283
Kansas City	39	304
Pittsburgh	38	257
Seattle	36	269
Cleveland	35	236
N.Y. Jets	35	226
Miami	35	248
Buffalo	31	246
Indianapolis	29	202
San Diego	28	183
New England	25	183
Cincinnati	21	129
AFC Total	491	3426
AFC Average	35.1	244.7

MOST SACKS, GAME

NFC	4.5	Bryce Paup, Green Bay vs. Tampa Bay September 15
AFC	4.0	Clyde Simmons, Philadelphia at Dallas, September 15
		Pepper Johnson, Giants at Tampa Bay, November 24
		E.J. Junior, Miami at New England, October 6
		Derrick Thomas, Kansas City vs. Buffalo, October 7
		Jerrrol Williams, Pittsburgh vs. Cleveland, December 22
		Leslie O'Neal, San Diego vs. Denver, December 22

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—SACKS

	Sacks	Yards
Philadelphia	55	394
New Orleans	50	337
Washington	50	345
Green Bay	45	307
Chicago	40	257
Tampa Bay	39	258
N.Y. Giants	34	254
Minnesota	33	217
San Francisco	31	212
Detroit	30	237
Atlanta	29	237
Phoenix	25	153
Dallas	23	151
L.A. Rams	17	112
NFC Total	501	3471
NFC Average	35.8	247.9
NFL Total	992	6897
NFL Average	35.4	246.3

INTERCEPTIONS

INTERCEPTIONS

AFC	8	Ronnie Lott, Raiders
NFC	6	Ray Crockett, Detroit
		Tim McKyler, Atlanta
		Deion Sanders, Atlanta
		Aeneas Williams, Phoenix

INTERCEPTIONS, GAME

AFC	3	Albert Lewis, Kansas City vs. Atlanta, September 1
		Richard Shelton, Pittsburgh vs. Cleveland, December 22-TD
NFC	3	Gene Atkins, New Orleans at Phoenix, December 22

LONGEST

NFC	97	Reggie Rutland, Minnesota vs. Rams, December 15-TD
AFC	83	Erik McMillian, Jets vs. Miami, September 29-TD
		Lloyd Burruss, Kansas City vs. Raiders, October 28

YARDS

NFC	198	Gene Atkins, New Orleans
AFC	168	Erik McMillian, Jets

AFC—TEAM LEADERS, INTERCEPTIONS

BUFFALO	5	Nate Odomes Darryl Talley
CINCINNATI	4	David Fulcher
CLEVELAND	3	Stephen Braggs
DENVER	5	Steve Atwater Dennis Smith
HOUSTON	6	Cris Dishman
INDIANAPOLIS	4	John Baylor
KANSAS CITY	4	Deron Cherry
RAIDERS	8	Ronnie Lott
MIAMI	5	Louis Oliver
NEW ENGLAND	3	Maurice Hurst
JETS	4	Mike Brim
PITTSBURGH	4	Thomas Everett
SAN DIEGO	6	Gill Byrd
SEATTLE	5	Eugene Robinson

NFC—TEAM LEADERS, INTERCEPTIONS

ATLANTA	6	Tim McKyler
CHICAGO	4	Deion Sanders
DALLAS	4	Lemuel Stinson
DETROIT	6	Issiac Holt
GREEN BAY	3	Ray Crockett
RAMS	3	LeRoy Butler
MINNESOTA	5	Chuck Cecil
NEW ORLEANS	5	Mark Murphy
GIANTS	4	Jerry Gray
PHILADELPHIA	5	Darryl Henley
PHOENIX	6	Joey Browner
SAN FRANCISCO	4	Gene Atkins
TAMPA BAY	3	Vince Buck
WASHINGTON	5	Mark Collins
		Everson Walls
		Eric Allen
		Wes Hopkins
		Aeneas Williams
		Dave Waymer
		Tony Covington
		Darrell Green
		Wiber Marshall

TEAM CHAMPION

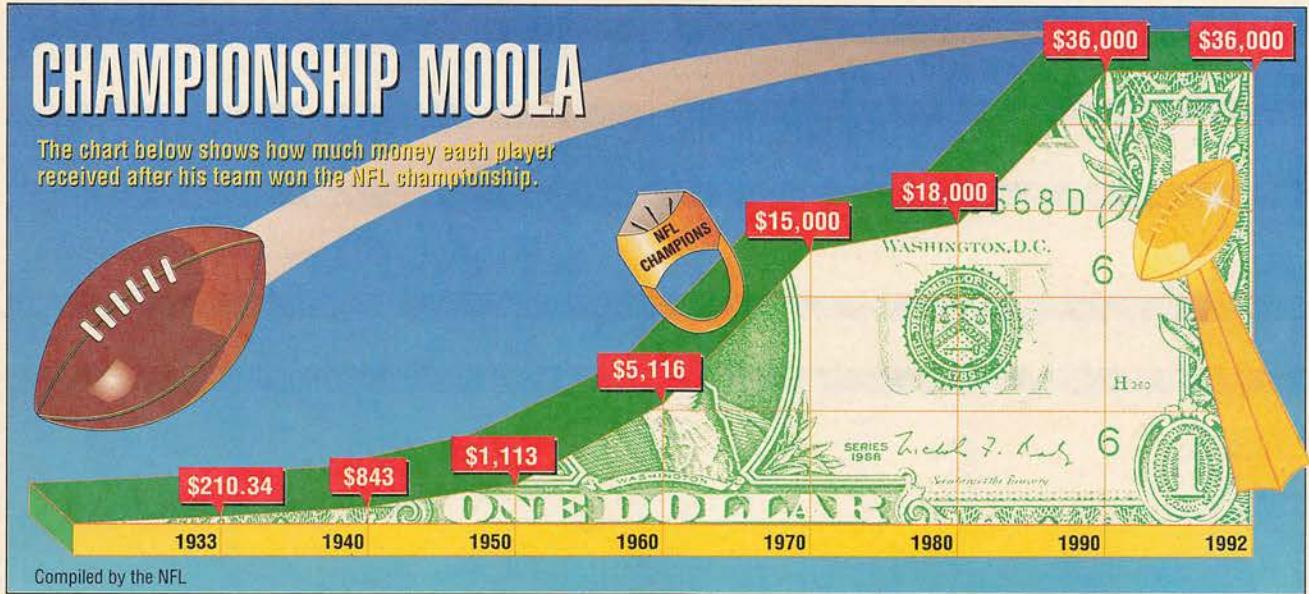
NFC	29	New Orleans	AFC	23	Buffalo Denver
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TOP INTERCEPTORS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD		No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Lott, Ronnie, Raiders	8	52	6.5	27	0	Oliver, Louis, Mia.	5	80	16.0	37	0
Crockett, Ray, Det.	6	141	23.5	196	1	Marshall, Wilber, Wash.	5	75	15.0	154	1
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	6	119	19.8	155	1	Smith, Dennis, Den.	5	60	12.0	39	0
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	6	61	10.2	143	1	Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	5	56	11.2	27	0
Williams, Aeneas, Phoe.	6	60	10.0	32	0	Green, Darrell, Wash.	5	47	9.4	24	0
Byrd, Gill, S.D.	6	48	8.0	22	0	Talley, Darryl, Buff.	5	45	9.0	13	0
McKyler, Tim, Atl.	6	24	4.0	24	0	McDonald, Tim, Phoe.	5	36	7.2	13	0
Atkins, Gene, N.O.	5	198	39.6	79	0	Hopkins, Wes, Phil.	5	26	5.2	14	0
Odomes, Nate, Buff.	5	120	24.0	48	1	Washington, Lionel, Raiders	5	22	4.4	16	0
Atwater, Steve, Den.	5	104	20.8	49	0	Allen, Eric, Phil.	5	20	4.0	8	0
Browner, Joey, Minn.	5	97	19.4	45	0	Buck, Vince, N.O.	5	12	2.4	12	0

CHAMPIONSHIP MOOLA

The chart below shows how much money each player received after his team won the NFL championship.



Compiled by the NFL

KICKOFF RETURNS

YARDS PER RETURN		
NFC	25.8	Mel Gray, Detroit
AFC	25.1	Nate Lewis, San Diego
YARDS		
NFC	929	Mel Gray, Detroit
AFC	880	Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
YARDS, GAME		
NFC	193	Alexander Wright, Dallas vs. Atlanta December 22 (6 returns)
AFC	134	Jon Vaughn, New England at Phoenix, September 29, (2 returns)
LONGEST		
NFC	102	Alexander Wright, Dallas vs. Atlanta, December 22-TD
AFC	99	Jon Vaughn, New England at Phoenix, September 29-TD

RETURNS		
AFC	44	Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
NFC	37	Dexter Carter, San Francisco
RETURNS GAME		
NFC	8	Eric Pegram, Atlanta at Washington, November 10 (138 yards)
AFC	7	Shane Garrett, Cincinnati at Miami, December 9 (105 yards)
TOUCHDOWNS		
AFC	1	Al Edwards, Buffalo
		Nate Lewis, San Diego
		Jon Vaughn, New England
		Clarence Verdin, Indianapolis
NFC	1	Dexter Carter, San Francisco
		Delon Sanders, Atlanta
		Charles Wilson, Green Bay
		Alexander Wright, Dallas

TEAM CHAMPION		
NFC	21.7	Dallas
AFC	21.3	Seattle

TOP TEN KICKOFF RETURNERS					
Gray, Mel, Det.	No 36	Yards 929	Avg 25.8	Long 71	TD 0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	23	578	25.1	195	1
Wright, Alexander, Dall.	21	514	24.5	1102	1
Martin, Sammy, N.E.-Ind.	20	483	24.2	38	0
Wilson, Charles, G.B.	23	522	22.7	182	1

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—KICKOFF RETURNS					
No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	
Seattle	60	1280	21.3	55	0
San Diego	55	1171	21.3	195	1
Kansas City	48	978	20.4	76	0
New England	56	1108	19.8	199	1
Pittsburgh	67	1314	19.6	54	0
Indianapolis	55	1061	19.3	188	1
Buffalo	52	970	18.7	191	1
Denver	37	687	18.6	55	0
Houston	46	835	18.2	41	0
L.A. Raiders	52	928	17.8	37	0
Miami	50	890	17.8	49	0
Cincinnati	69	1225	17.8	63	0
N.Y. Jets	58	1003	17.3	53	0
Cleveland	55	888	16.1	36	0
AFC Total	760	14338	—	199	4
AFC Average	54.3	1024.1	18.9	—	0.3

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE—KICKOFF RETURNS					
No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD	
Dallas	52	1127	21.7	1102	1
San Francisco	50	1028	20.6	198	1
Detroit	57	1170	20.5	71	0
Minnesota	44	899	20.4	50	0
Green Bay	60	1197	20.0	182	1
Atlanta	52	997	19.2	1100	1
Washington	49	926	18.9	46	0
Phoenix	52	972	18.7	39	0
N.Y. Giants	50	917	18.3	51	0
L.A. Rams	59	1070	18.1	48	0
New Orleans	50	879	17.6	34	0
Tampa Bay	60	1047	17.5	43	0
Chicago	45	763	17.0	31	0
Philadelphia	47	764	16.3	33	0
NFC Total	727	13756	—	1102	4
NFC Average	51.9	982.6	18.9	—	0.3
NFL Total	1487	28094	—	1102	8
NFL Average	53.1	1003.4	18.9	—	0.3

PUNTING

AVERAGE YARDS PER PUNT					
NFC	45.7	Reggie Roby, Miami	AFC	45.5	Harry Newsome, Minnesota
NET AVERAGE YARDS PER PUNT					
NFC	38.9	Rich Camarillo, Phoenix	AFC	38.5	Jeff Gosssett, Raiders
PUNTS, GAME					
AFC	10	Rohn Stark, Indianapolis at New England, December 8 (413 yards)	NFC	10	Dale Hatcher, Rams at New Orleans, September 15 (384 yards)
					Jim Arnold, Detroit at Green Bay, December 15 (391 yards)

TEAM CHAMPION											
NFC	45.5	Minnesota	AFC	44.8	Miami						
TOP TEN PUNTERS											
Roby, Reggie, Mia.	No 54	Yards 2466	Long 64	Avg 45.7	Total Punts 55	TB 7	Blk 1	Opp Ret 29	Ret Yds 324	In 20 17	Net Avg 36.4
Newsome, Harry, Minn.	68	3095	65	45.5	68	10	0	42	426	17	36.3
Camarillo, Rich, Phoe.	76	3445	60	45.3	77	7	1	48	313	19	38.9
Gosssett, Jeff, Raiders	67	2961	61	44.2	67	2	0	41	341	26	38.5
Montgomery, Greg, Hou.	48	2105	60	43.9	50	4	2	28	183	13	36.8
Johnson, Lee, Cin.	64	2795	62	43.7	64	6	0	38	456	15	34.7
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O.	86	3743	61	43.5	87	10	1	50	470	20	35.3
Landeta, Sean, Giants	64	2768	61	43.3	64	8	0	35	350	16	35.3
Tutu, Rick, Sea.	49	2106	60	43.0	49	3	0	29	239	8	36.9
Fulgham, Scott, Atl.	81	3470	60	42.8	81	6	0	45	387	21	36.6

fewer than 27 points only twice last year), look out. Sophomore running back Greg Hill is a 1,000-yard rusher and a Heisman candidate, but Texas A&M must find a replacement for Bucky Richardson, who was a good quarterback but an even better leader.

11. COLORADO

Love him or hate him, you've got to respect Bill McCartney for clinging to his convictions. McCartney, who has taken Colorado to the pinnacle of college football and maintained a level of excellence, has never been afraid to say or do anything out of the ordinary and then stick to his guns.

Off the field, McCartney has taken heat for using his position as head coach to promote some of his religious beliefs, but he hasn't backed down. On the field, he decided before last year's Blockbuster Bowl that Colorado would scrap its I-Bone attack and feature a more pass-oriented offense. And he hasn't backed down.

Unproven Kordell Stewart is the heir apparent at quarterback. Lamont Warren will carry the load at tailback, and receiver Michael Westbrook is a super prospect. Colorado's offense will struggle with the transition for a while—maybe all season. But a dominant defense will keep the Buffs in contention for the Big Eight title. The past few years of stellar recruiting will pay off big for McCartney this season. Defensive linemen Leonard Renfro and Marcellous Elder, linebackers Chad Brown, Greg Biekert and Ron Woolfork, and cornerback Deon Figures spearhead what will be one of the nation's most dominant defenses.

12. OHIO STATE

Now that all the controversy has died down in Columbus, maybe Ohio State can finally enjoy the kind of season its fans have been so impatiently expecting.

We said in this space last year that John Cooper would need to win at least eight games to save his job. He got exactly eight and was presented with a new contract at season's end. Soon after that, Cooper was given another gift: the return of sensational running back Robert Smith.

You may recall that Smith rushed for 1,126 yards as a freshman in 1990 but quit the team prior to last season in a dispute with the coaching staff. Having smoothed things over with Cooper, Smith is back. And if he can get enough carries—he'll be competing with talented Buckeyes tailbacks Butler By'not'e and Raymont Harris, among others—Smith could be a Heisman contender.

The running game, with the help of a mammoth offensive line, should buy Ohio State time to break in a new quarterback. The defense, which allowed more than 20 points in only two games last year, returns a pair of All-America candidates in linebacker Steve Tovar and safety Roger Harper. Ohio State faces an early challenge when it visits Syracuse in September, but the Buckeyes could still have a shot at the Rose Bowl when they host Michigan in the season finale.

13. FLORIDA

Everyone knew before last year that the state of Florida was the place to be on fall Saturdays, but in 1991 it finally became official: The big two, Miami and

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN



If Smith can return to his freshman form after a year off, the Buckeyes will be Big Ten title contenders.

Florida State, had to make room for the Gators.

After Florida State lost its No. 1 ranking with a November loss to Miami, the Seminoles hoped to bounce back against Florida. But the Gators proved they could play with their in-state rivals by knocking off Florida State themselves.

It isn't just that Steve Spurrier has molded an offense that can score seemingly at will; the defense has been dominant for several years. This year, with the likes of defensive tackle Darren Mickell and a stellar secondary that includes Larry Kennedy and Will White, the situation will be no different.

Offensively, there are so many weapons, it's almost obscene. Quarterback Shane Matthews has thrown for 6,082 yards and 51 touchdowns in the last two seasons. Receivers Willie Jackson, Harrison Houston and Tre Everett combined for 103 catches for 1,750 yards and 24 scores. And Errict Rhett may be the most underrated running back in the nation. The hard-running junior rushed for 1,109 yards and caught 40 passes.

TOP
25

THE HEISMAN "WATCH"

Penn State's bid for an undefeated season is ruined in South Bend, where Notre Dame's offensive juggernaut continues to roll. Not even the Nittany Lions defense is enough to stop the Heisman tandem of Mirer and Bettis, who hook up on three scoring passes.

Texas A&M's Greg Hill is on pace to surpass Barry Sanders' NCAA single-season rushing record of 2,628 yards. The Aggies win their eighth in a row since the loss of Stanford. Hill gains 232 yards against Louisville, his NCAA-record ninth straight 200-yard game.

It's Halloween, and quarterbacks Eric Zeier of Georgia and Shane Matthews of Florida come dressed as Heisman candidates. Matthews has the better costume. The Gator quarterback passes for 340 yards, his eighth straight 300-yard passing game.

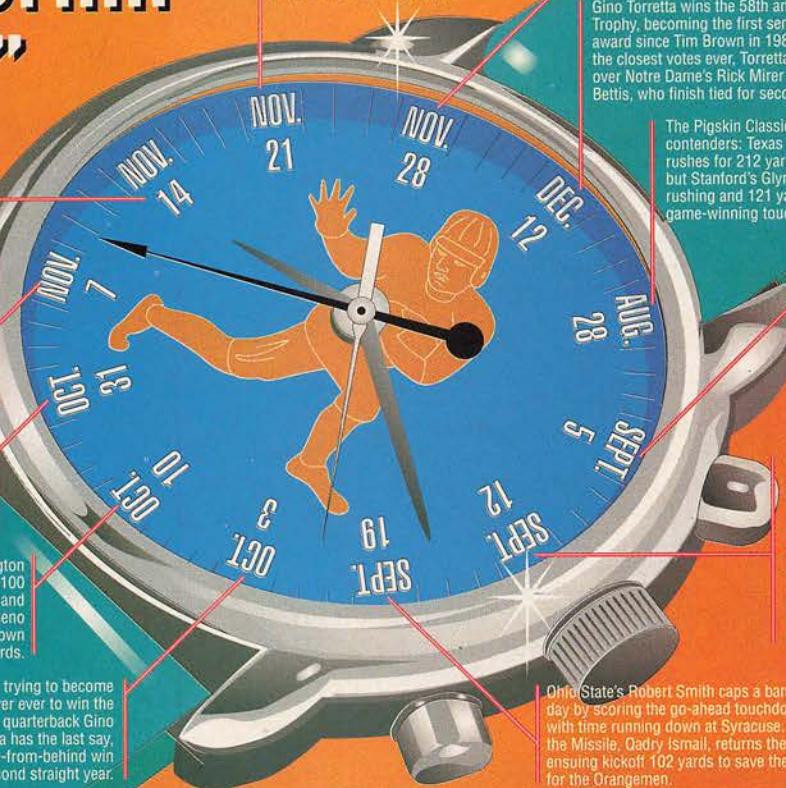
For the first time in 14 games, the Washington defense allows a running back to gain 100 yards. Cal's Russell White nets 112 yards and two scores, but he is overshadowed by Beno Bryant, who burns the Bears for touchdown runs of 62, 68 and 86 yards.

Florida State's Marvin Jones, trying to become the first defensive player ever to win the Heisman, sacks Miami quarterback Gino Torretta six times. But Torretta has the last say, leading the 'Canes to a come-from-behind win for the second straight year.

Stanford's Glyn Milburn is shut down by Cal in The Big Game, while Russell White enjoys his best game of the season. His 240 yards give him 2,051 for the year, one more than his uncle, Charles White, had for USC when he won the Heisman in 1979.

San Diego State's Marshall Faulk needs 78 yards to overtake Greg Hill for the NCAA rushing title, but the marauding Miami defense holds him to 33. Miami's Gino Torretta, meanwhile, throws for 545 yards and six touchdowns, giving him 32 on the season.

TRACY CALVERT-JANTZ



Gino Torretta wins the 58th annual Heisman Trophy, becoming the first senior to win the award since Tim Brown in 1987. In one of the closest votes ever, Torretta barely wins it over Notre Dame's Rick Mirer and Jerome Bettis, who finish tied for second.

The Pigskin Classic spawns a pair of Heisman contenders: Texas A&M running back Greg Hill rushes for 212 yards and three touchdowns, but Stanford's Glyn Milburn gains 110 yards rushing and 121 yards receiving and scores the game-winning touchdown.

Northwestern is totally overmatched by Notre Dame, but it's difficult to highlight one. Heisman candidate on the Irish: Rick Mirer passes for 300 yards and three touchdowns, and fullback Jerome Bettis rumbles for 220 yards and four scores.

Who needs Desmond Howard? On fourth-and-inches in Notre Dame territory, Michigan's Derrick Alexander makes a diving touchdown grab of an Elvis Grbac pass. Undaunted, Mirer and Bettis both score fourth-quarter touchdowns to lead the Irish to victory.

The offensive line is Spurrier's only concern, as he must find four new starters, but little else could keep Florida from a date in the inaugural SEC title game.

14. GEORGIA

Hmmm...

A rebuilding Georgia team wasn't supposed to be all that good until this year, but the young Bulldogs were ahead of schedule, going 8-3 in '91 and knocking off Arkansas in the Independence Bowl. So if we tell you that 1992 could be the year Georgia contends for the national title, would you be surprised to see the Dawgs make a run at the top *this* season?

Georgia's meteoric rise back to respectability took flight when quarterback Eric Zeier forgot he was a true freshman and had one of the best seasons a Georgia quarterback has ever had. If Zeier continues to play beyond his years (he turns 20 in September), Georgia's offense will be hard to stop. Running back Garrison Hearst and flanker Andre Hastings are all-star candidates, and the offensive line is big and experienced.

Knowing full well that his team has a legitimate chance to crack the top 10, head coach Ray Goff has imported a host of junior college transfers to help out a defense that is below the standards of SEC rivals Florida and Alabama. Improvement on that side of the line could lead to a Halloween showdown with the Gators (the "World's Largest Cocktail Party") that decides the SEC's Eastern Division.

TOP

15. UCLA

If Tommy Maddox hadn't unexpectedly turned pro after his sophomore season, UCLA would be a bona fide top-10 team this year.

Without Maddox, however, the Bruins have no experience at quarterback. You could easily draw the comparison to USC's 1991 collapse after Todd Marinovich left school following his sophomore season. Fortunately for UCLA, there is a difference.

"They've got a stronger overall team coming back than we did," says Trojans coach Larry Smith. "I look at their offense and defense, particularly their defense."

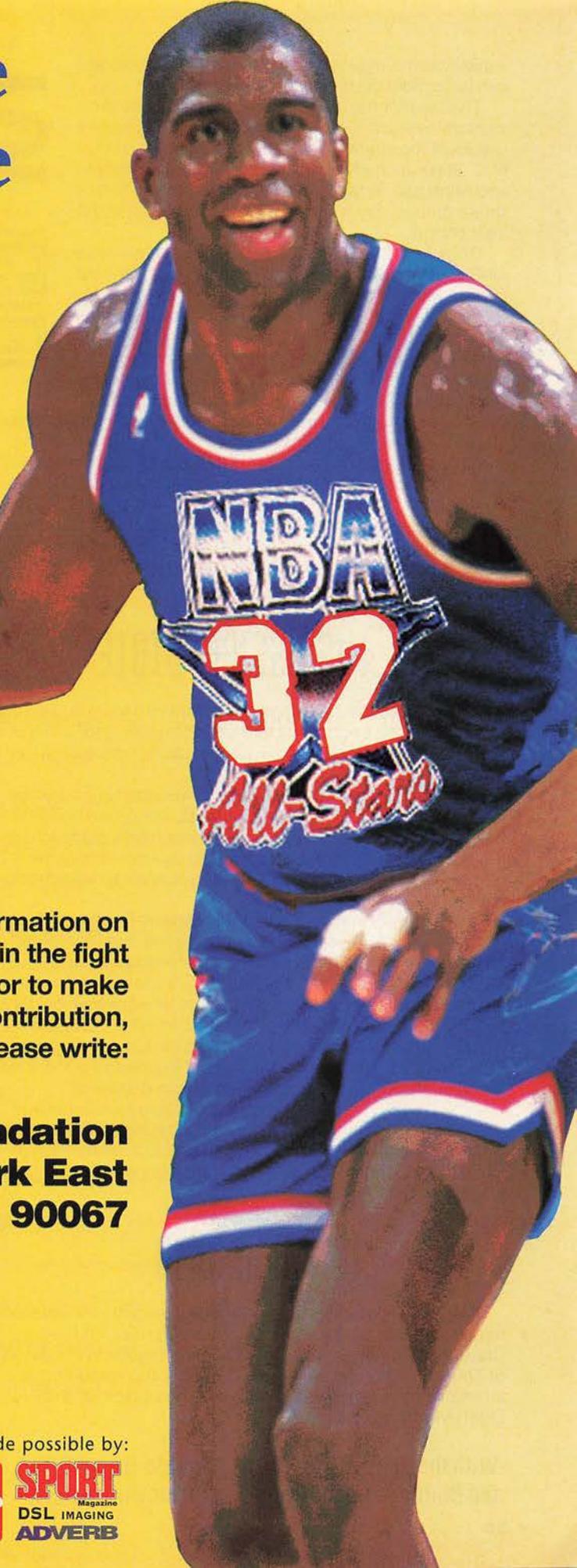
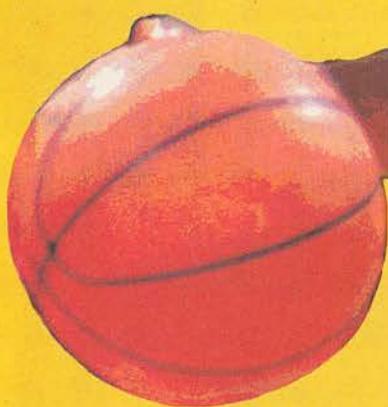
Indeed, of UCLA's nine wins last year, only BYU and USC scored more than 16 points against the Bruins' defense. Seven defensive starters return to a group that ranked eighth in the nation against the rush.

The main question on offense is not who will replace Maddox, because whoever plays quarterback will have an All-American receiving target in Sean LaChapelle. The key to success is the ability of tailback Kevin Williams to stay healthy. Last year was the first time Williams managed to do that, and he came through with 1,141 rushing yards and nine touchdowns.

16. IOWA

Iowa has won 91 games in the last 11 years and has posted back-to-back 10-win seasons. But if the

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Hawkeyes manage to win 10 games this season, you can hand them the national championship.

That won't happen, however, because their schedule is nothing short of brutal. In the first five weeks of the season, Hayden Fry's team must play N.C. State (in the Kickoff Classic), Miami, Colorado and Michigan. In fact, if Iowa manages to win two of those games, Fry will be on track for Coach of the Year honors.

Gone from last year's 10-1-1 team are a two-time all-Big Ten quarterback (Matt Rodgers), a 1,000-yard rusher (Mike Saunders), and a host of standout defensive players. But that won't stop the Hawkeyes from winning their share of games.

All-America candidate Mike Devlin returns at center to anchor a veteran offensive line that forms the nucleus of Iowa's attack. The running game will produce, and in Danan Hughes, new quarterback Jim Hartlieb has one of the Big Ten's most dangerous receiving threats at his disposal. Hughes caught 43 passes a year ago—eight for scores—and his 17.6 yards per catch led the conference.

The defense must replace its top three tacklers, but Iowa ranked sixth in the nation in total defense last year, and even a small drop-off won't keep the Hawkeyes out of the top 20.

17. MISSISSIPPI STATE

It's funny how a coach can waltz right into town and provide a spark for a team that had been struggling for several years, and then suddenly have people taking notice of all the talent on that team.

That's the case with Jackie Sherrill, who rode in on a white horse and led the Mississippi State Bulldogs to their first bowl appearance since 1981. Sherrill deservedly got much of the credit for State's quick turnaround, but now everyone is beginning to realize that he's got the players to take them even further in '92.

"I think they'll make a run for it," says Mike Gottfried. "I really think they'll be good enough to contend, but the key will be whether they can get any play out of the quarterback."

Sleepy Robinson was actually the Southeastern Conference's second-rated passer last year, but he is known more for his running ability. The Bulldogs ranked third in the SEC in rushing offense last season but figure to pass the ball more with the addition of Pitt transfer Olanda Truitt. "He looks so good, it's scary," Gottfried says of Truitt, whom he recruited at Pitt.

Along with Truitt, the offense will be led by junior college All-American Kevin Bouie, a 220-pound running back with 4.5 speed. Cornerback Michael James, a teammate of Bouie's and a fellow JC All-American, joins eight returning starters on defense.

18. OKLAHOMA

Probation is usually enough to stifle a program for several seasons. Look at the Sooners' in-state rival, Oklahoma State. The Cowboys were a postseason regular in the days of Thurman Thomas and Barry Sanders, but recruiting restrictions have kept the Cowboys at the bottom of the Big Eight ever since.

With the likes of Robinson, a double-threat QB, the Bulldogs are no longer an unknown quantity.

TOP 20

Oklahoma, however, is another beast entirely. The Sooners went 7-4 and 8-3 in their two years of probation (1989 and '90), and last season, the first under Gary Gibbs in which they were eligible for postseason play, the Sooners crushed favored Virginia in the Gator Bowl, 48-14. Oklahoma's revamped passing offense reached its pinnacle in that game, as Cale Gundy completed 25 of 31 passes for 329 yards and two touchdowns.

Nevertheless, don't expect Air Oklahoma to put up those kind of numbers consistently. Insiders admit that Virginia simply did not concern itself with the Sooners' passing game as it prepared for the Gator Bowl. Yes, Oklahoma will win at least eight games this year. And Gundy is an excellent quarterback, though he's no Ty Detmer.

-JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT USA



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The Sooners had enough talent to overcome the immediate effects of probation, but this squad is perilously thin by traditional Oklahoma standards. It will make a run at the Big Eight title, but a key injury would hurt Oklahoma far more than it would hurt rivals Nebraska and Colorado.

19. USC

Try to forget, for just a moment, about USC's surprising collapse in 1991. Forget that the Trojans were stunned in the season opener by Memphis State and went on to post a dismal 3-8 record. Let's see...

Eighteen returning starters...a potential superstar at running back...an All-American offensive tackle...solid linebackers...a strong secondary....

Sounds like a Rose Bowl team, right?

But you can't ignore what happened last season, and therein lies the mystery. The quarterback situation never cleared up after Todd Marinovich opted to turn pro, and a young defense rarely played up to its potential.

Nonetheless, several signs point to USC rebounding with a vengeance in '92. Tailback Estrus Crayton saw limited action early last season, but rushed for 311 yards in his final two games. The defense, though porous at times, held both Penn State and Washington to their lowest point totals of the year. Sophomore Rob Johnson has the edge in the quarterback derby, and he'll be throwing to one of the most underrated receivers in the country, Johnnie Morton.

"I think the attitude of the team right now is one that everybody wants to prove [that] what happened last year

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wasn't a true indicator of what we really are. So there's a very strong, motivating hunger factor," says USC coach Larry Smith.

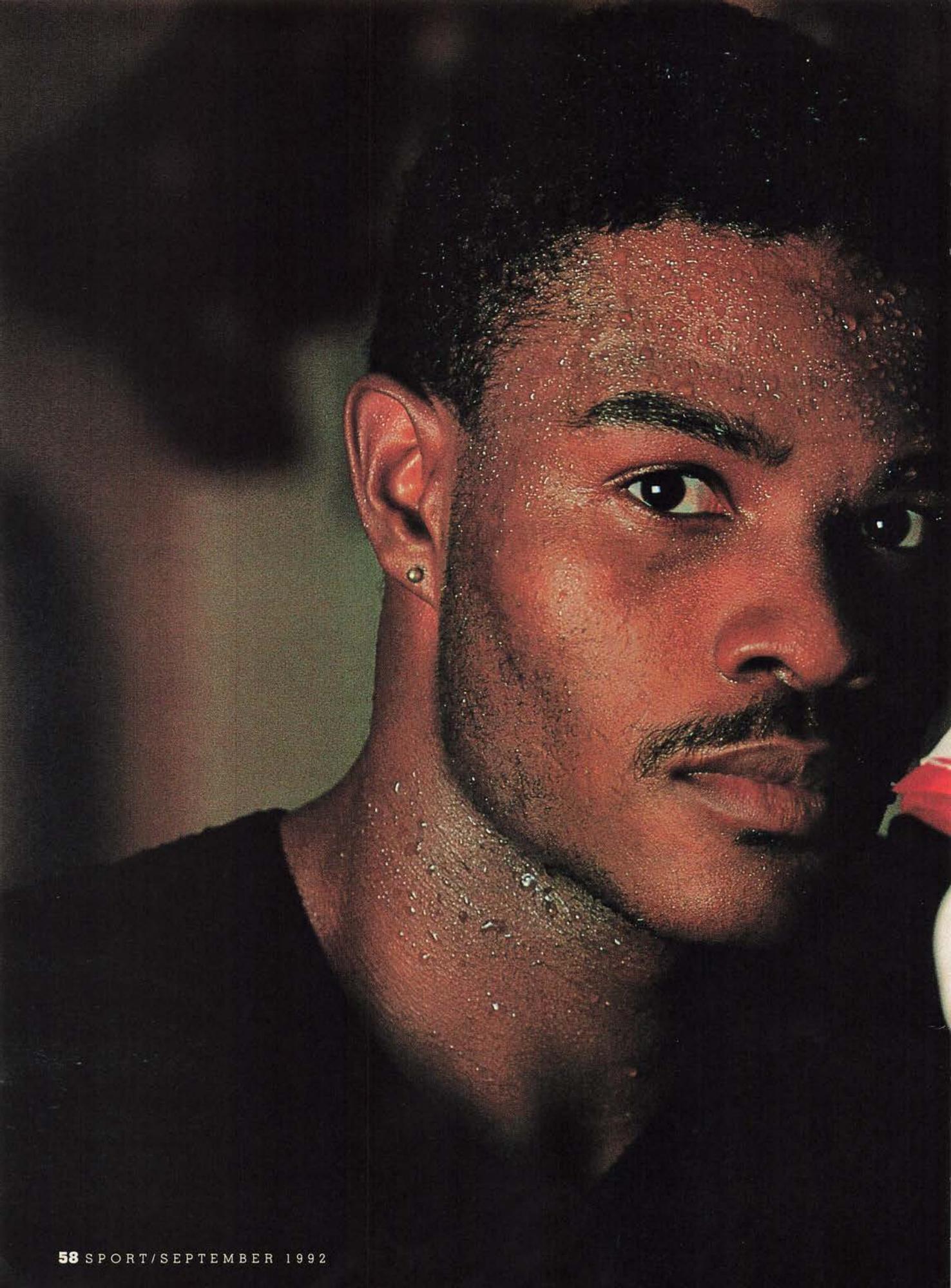
20. GEORGIA TECH

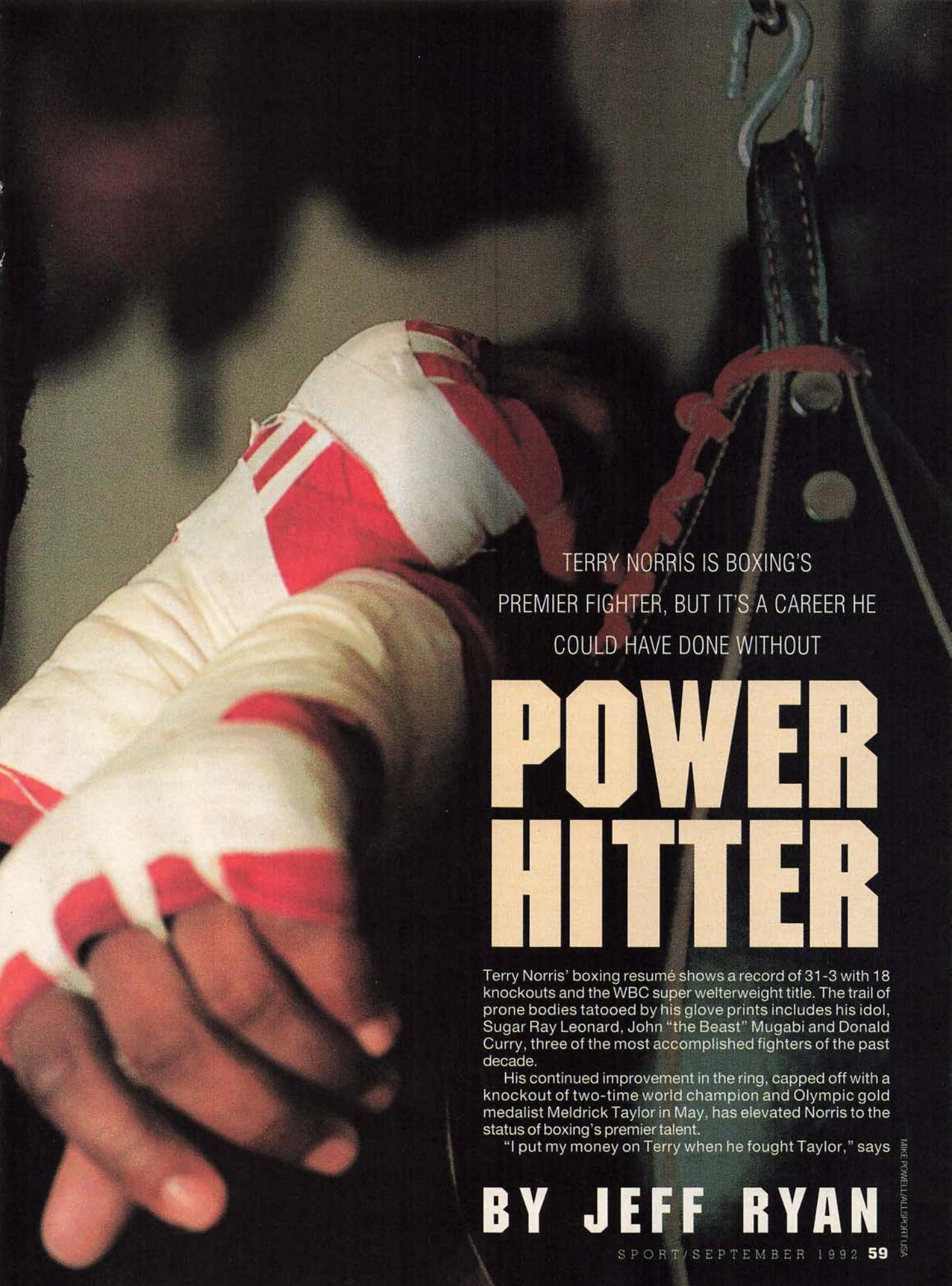
Behind Florida State, it's a wide-open race for second in the ACC between Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Clemson, N.C. State and Virginia. But Tech has one thing its rivals sorely lack: a proven leader at quarterback.

Shawn Jones didn't live up to his Heisman potential last season but still managed to place second in the ACC in total offense (220.8 yards per game). And don't forget: Jones led the Rambling Wreck to an undefeated season and a share of the national championship two years ago.

"I want to bring Shawn back up to the top," says Bill Lewis, who replaces Bobby Ross as head coach this season. "I want him to be the absolute best he can, because if he is, I think we have one of the better quarterbacks in the country."

Lewis was at his best last season, guiding East Carolina to an 11-1 record and being named Coach of the Year. He inherits a team that went 8-5 last season, but he must replace several key players, including defensive standouts Marco Coleman and Willie Clay. Nevertheless, Tech will win this year with an explosive offense. Jones is joined in the backfield by a trio of terrific running backs—Jimmie Lincoln (913 yards in '91), William Bell (suspended in '91; 1,018 yards in '90) and highly touted Notre Dame transfer Dorsey Levens.★





TERRY NORRIS IS BOXING'S
PREMIER FIGHTER, BUT IT'S A CAREER HE
COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT

POWER HITTER

Terry Norris' boxing resumé shows a record of 31-3 with 18 knockouts and the WBC super welterweight title. The trail of prone bodies tatooed by his glove prints includes his idol, Sugar Ray Leonard, John "the Beast" Mugabi and Donald Curry, three of the most accomplished fighters of the past decade.

His continued improvement in the ring, capped off with a knockout of two-time world champion and Olympic gold medalist Meldrick Taylor in May, has elevated Norris to the status of boxing's premier talent.

"I put my money on Terry when he fought Taylor," says

BY JEFF RYAN

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



"Cadet Shay Howard is an individual of the highest academic and athletic caliber", says Army ROTC instructor Major Peter Nacy. "He has demonstrated his leadership ability in every activity he has ever participated in."

Howard started meeting challenges early. During both his junior and senior years in high school, he was captain of the football team, class president and a member of the National Honor Society.

Now the starting varsity quarterback at East Central University in Oklahoma, Cadet Howard is also an honor roll student and varsity starting guard in basketball. He manages to squeeze time in for intramural sports as well as Army ROTC's Ranger Challenge and Color Guard.

Cadet Howard says that football and Army ROTC both teach a crucial skill for success—the ability to work with others. He defines a leader as "someone who is able to influence others to accomplish a mission."

Army ROTC is proud to salute the achievements of future leaders like Shay Howard.



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You don't have to convince Carl Daniels (right) that Norris is boxing's premier fighter.

WBA cruiserweight champion Bobby Czyz. "The way he's been fighting, I knew he was a sure bet."

The Taylor bout may have been Norris' defining moment, but it also confirmed that if he hopes for a challenge, he must gain six pounds and jump up to the middleweight division. Why? Welterweight foes such as Buddy McGirt and Simon Brown would be no match for Norris' strength. Norris doesn't have to worry about his fellow 154-pound champions, Vinny Pazienza and Gianfranco Rosi, who are too crude to pose a serious threat.

The middleweight roster, on the other hand, is deep. It includes unbeaten IBF titlist James Toney, slick WBA champion Reggie Johnson, and (look out, Terry) the familiar fists of WBC titlist Julian Jackson, the same guy who knocked him out three years ago.

"I'll surprise people by easily shutting all those guys down," says the 25-year-old Norris. "They all saw the Taylor fight. I can knock anyone out, and they know that now."

Norris' cool confidence increases with every win. It's a career any fighter

would kill to have...but one Norris would easily have done without. Don't get the wrong idea. Norris has relished the one-on-one contact inside the ring ever since he was 9 years old. After all, he won four Texas Golden Gloves titles during his high school years. But Norris' goal was to play baseball for the Houston Astros.

Baseball provided Norris so many opportunities to become a hero, be it with a home run, a bunt, or the simple feat of hitting the cutoff man. In his junior year at Dunbar High School in Lubbock, Texas, Norris hit .417, with 10 home runs and 15 stolen bases in 24 games. Playing center field was a breeze for him too. Norris' fielding percentage was 1.000.

"In baseball," says Norris, "you are not handcuffed by a fight plan or held captive by an opponent's awkward style."

By the start of his senior year in high school, Texas Tech, Baylor and the University of New Mexico had Norris' numbers memorized—most importantly, his phone number. They all came calling, scholarship offers in hand.

"He was one of the best baseball

"I plan to go to college in the next couple of years. While I'm there, I want to try baseball all over again. I want to see what skills I have left." —Terry Norris



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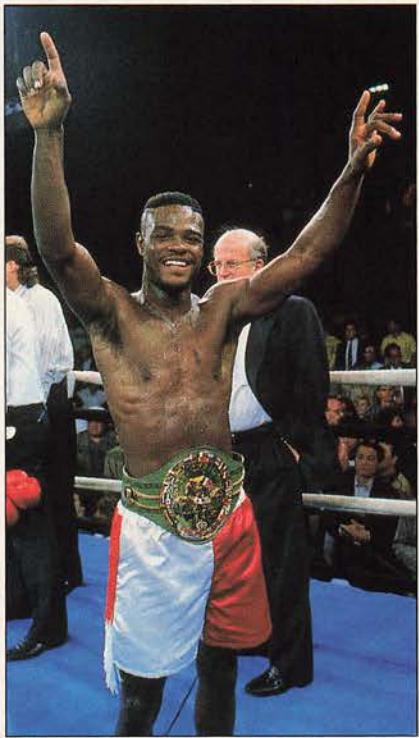
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Norris is all smiles after retaining the WBC super welterweight title against Meldrick Taylor in May.

players I've ever had," says Wendell Brown, Norris' coach at Dunbar. "Great bat, great arm, great hands, great speed. Terry had that Kirby Puckett kind of strength. If he had put up the numbers in college, he could have made it to the big leagues. All the tools were there."

So why isn't Norris playing professional baseball? His motivation was destroyed by one disturbing day during his senior year in 1986.

Dunbar, a predominantly black school, was visiting rival Levelland, predominantly white. After Norris doubled, he and the Levelland second baseman exchanged words. The trash talk flew harmlessly for a while, but then the bad blood spilled, literally, when Norris was intentionally spiked as he dove back to the base to avoid a pick-off attempt.

"After he spiked me, he called me a nigger," Norris says. "When they were changing pitchers, I told the second baseman to stop it, and he called me a nigger again."

Enraged, Norris hit his tormentor with his helmet, clobbered the shortstop when he tried to join the fracas, then noticed out of the corner of his eye that the pitcher, who had just been removed, was racing toward him. Norris

gave him his second hook of the day. The pitcher was hospitalized for four days with facial and head injuries.

Order was quickly restored. But when the Lubbock School District suspended him for the rest of the regular season, Norris disappeared from the radar screen of every college that had scouted him.

"I asked the coach what was going on with the scholarships, and he told me that nobody wanted me," Norris says. "They thought I was a troublemaker. Even people in my own school were saying I planned the brawl beforehand. The whole thing made me real bitter towards baseball for a long time. When I saw that I couldn't play in college, I figured it wasn't meant to be. My motivation was gone. In a way, it was sad."

Norris felt helpless, his life's direction altered in a flash by a handful of strangers. But a month after the brawl, another handful of strangers nearly left him with no life at all.

Walking near his house one day, Norris had barely had time to notice a car following him when he heard shots ring out. In an instant, two bullets chipped the pavement only three feet in front of him. He ran for blocks, finally losing his pursuers when he ducked down an alley.

"They were white guys from Levelland," he says. "I had a friend who went to school there, and he heard talk that some people were going to get me because of the brawl on the baseball diamond. I was vindictive. I wanted to find them, but my friend never learned who did it, so I let it go. It just wasn't worth it."

That incident forced Norris to move to Campo, Calif., and pursue a career in boxing. On August 2, 1986, Norris turned pro with a first-round knockout of Jose Cordova.

The early years in the ring, however, weren't satisfying for Norris, or for the people watching him. Overly cautious, Norris had knockouts in only two of his first seven wins and quickly became known as someone who bored as often as he scored.

Then, in his first title fight in 1989, Norris got careless against the savage-punching Jackson, who was then the WBA junior middleweight champion. Norris dropped his left hand in Round 2 and was knocked out with three vicious bombs. It was the kind of defeat that ruins a fighter.

"Getting knocked out crushed me," Norris says. "My whole world came crashing down. But I knew that coming back and beating big punchers was the

only way to prove it was a fluke."

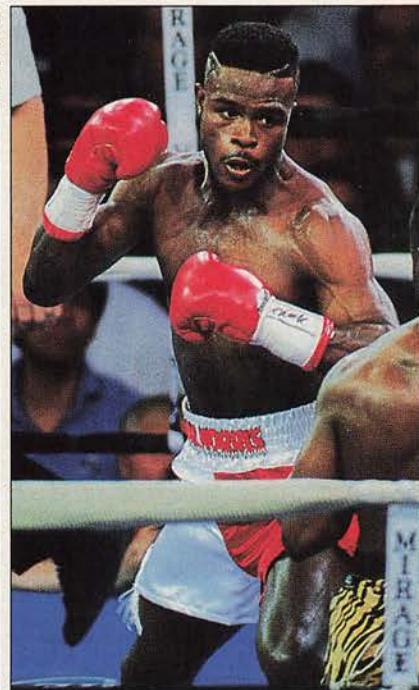
Norris rebounded against Mugabi eight months later. Unleashing quick, powerful punches, Norris tamed his fearsome foe and captured the WBC super welterweight title with a first-round knockout.

Though that win came on ABC, much of the mainstream didn't hear of Norris until he made his New York debut, against Sugar Ray Leonard last year.

A faded legend at 34, Leonard was nonetheless a 12-5 favorite. Norris ignored the insulting odds and decked his idol in the second and seventh rounds en route to a unanimous decision that was tearful for Leonard fans to watch.

After that bout, Norris became known as a fighter who retired his opponents. In a little more than a year, he retired Mugabi, Leonard and former welterweight titlist Donald Curry, who fell in eight rounds. With each win, Norris gained further recognition while continuing to hone his dazzling physical gift.

"I watched Terry early in his career, when matchmakers said he was a runner," says ESPN analyst Al Bernstein. "He got better in the ring quicker than anyone I've seen in a long time. Every time out, he shows something that he didn't have before. His improvement



Norris wanted to play professional baseball, but a fight on the diamond forced him into the ring.

"Terry was one of the best baseball players I've ever had. Great bat, great arm, great hands, great speed. Terry had that Kirby Puckett kind of strength." —Wendell Brown, Norris' baseball coach at Dunbar High School

the last couple of years is staggering."

Stagger is something that Meldrick Taylor did virtually every time Norris hit him cleanly in their showdown at the Mirage in Las Vegas. Taylor, the WBA welterweight champion, had only one defeat in 31 previous bouts, and his trainer, George Benton, had boasted: "We've had a multilevelled plan for Norris. You have to throw softballs and hardballs at him."

Thirty beaten fighters, not to mention a number of pitchers with fat ERAs in Texas, could have told Benton that such a plan wouldn't work. In his most impressive performance yet, Norris hit for average and power, landing pinpoint punches, flooring Taylor twice, and finishing him in Round 4.

Beating Taylor may have been easy, but throwing a baseball to catcher Benito Santiago is another story. In fact, the only time Norris has been truly nervous in the last year was when he took the mound at San Diego's Jack Murphy Stadium to throw out the first ball before a Padres game in May.

"I was scared," says Norris, who threw the ball in the dirt. "I was afraid I was gonna overthrow the guy."

Walking between the white lines that night did more than churn his stomach. It started his imagination racing the way that it always does when he sits in the field boxes at Jack Murphy Stadium or on the couch in front of a TV tuned to baseball.

"I plan to go to college in the next couple of years," Norris says. "While I'm there, I want to try baseball all over again. I want to see what skills I have left. Maybe I gave up on it too soon. You know, there's a lot of times when baseball just pops up in my mind. It'll happen when I'm driving down the street. It's always the same scene: Bottom of the ninth, I knock a home run to win it for the Astros, and everybody is cheering for me when I reach home plate."

Norris' voice trails off, and in the silence you can sense how much he'd enjoy a life where the scrapes come from Astroturf and not punches, where stitches hold together horsehide instead of eyebrows, and where black eyes are something you give to yourself to help ward off the sun on those fly balls to shallow center field.

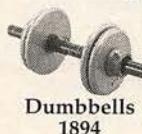
But don't feel sorry for Terry Norris. Lots of would-be major-leaguers are sitting in the cabs of trucks or front seats of taxis, those glorious diamonds forever on their minds. Norris wonders what might have been too, but he sits behind the wheel of a Jaguar convertible, and the diamonds are on his fingers.★

Jeff Ryan is a New York-based free-lance writer.

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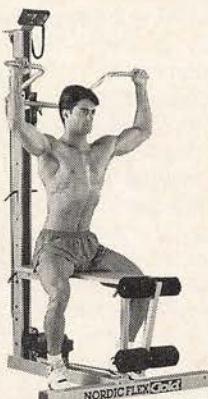
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THE NBA HOT ISSUE

NEXT MONTH IN

SPORT

Roger Craig steps out of the visiting manager's office at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh and peers into the clubhouse. "Matty," he says in his slow, deep drawl, motioning toward Matt Williams, the San Francisco Giants' slugging Gold Glove third baseman, who's mired in a maddening batting slump. Slowly, Williams rises from the chair in front of his locker and steps softly toward Craig. "Oh, no," Williams' expression reads, "what's Skip gonna tell me now?"

They slip into the office, and Craig, master psychologist that he is, says, "Let's do some role changing." Williams is puzzled, as if he's just seen another curve ball spin toward the plate and bend under his bat. "Sit in my chair," says Craig. Hesitantly, Williams slips behind the desk and sinks into Craig's chair.

"I tell him: 'OK, you're Roger Craig, I'm Matt Williams, I've got a hitting problem. What are you gonna tell me?'" Craig is saying today, his feet propped up on his desk, his eyes peeking over his half-eyeglasses, his

ing over the eyeglasses slipping down his nose, and booms, "OK, Williams, send Will Clark in here right now!"

Matt Williams is a perfectionist, a quality that has made him a master of impersonations as well as the best third baseman in baseball.

But that characteristic unveils another side of Williams, a gloomier side. He cannot

be careful what you tell him and how you tell him because he puts so much pressure on himself."

Perhaps no player in baseball—perhaps no player in professional sports, for that matter—is as hard on himself as Williams. "One game," says Giants coach Bob Brenly, "he homered and singled. Next time up, he grounds out, comes back to the bench seething and yells, 'If I can't

best in the National League. He hit 33 the year before, and he's cranking them out again this season in his quest for the NL home-run crown. He won the NL RBI crown in his first full season, 1990, knocking in 122 runs, breaking Mel Ott's single-season record for a Giants' third baseman. Williams became the first player in 39 years to capture an RBI crown in his first full season, and he's a Gold Glover to

A LASTING IMPRESSION

GIANTS SLUGGER MATT WILLIAMS'

BY RICK WEINBERG

arms folded across his black-and-orange Giants jacket.

Williams, to Craig's surprise, throws his feet up on the desk, reaches for Craig's glasses and places them halfway down his nose, crosses his arms, and drawls: "You stupid, hardheaded son of a gun, why don't you stop trying to pull the bleeping ball on every pitch? Why don't you stop trying to hit the ball 10 miles every time up?"

Craig's jaw drops, stunned by Williams' impersonation. "It was like watching myself," Craig says. They laughed, then got serious, talking about ways to obliterate these maddening slumps. Finally, when there's nothing left to say about slumps, when they're all slumped out, they rise from their chairs and...and Williams turns into Craig again, peek-

accept failure. Refuses to accept it. He cannot handle a 1 for 4—let alone an 0 for 4—even if that one hit represents a home run. "He says he's not doing his job unless he gets two, three hits a game," says his wife, Tracie.

Which is why Craig took the psychological approach to help Williams overcome his frustrating slump, the kind that made Matt clench his teeth and want to rip out what little hair is left on his head.

"He was swinging at pitches bouncing 10 feet in front of the plate," Craig says. "I knew I had to approach this thing in a sensitive way because Matt's hardheaded. You have to

hit that pitch, I ought to charter a boat and go fishing."

Once, after homering twice in a game, Williams got under a pitch in his third at-bat and popped up. He dragged himself back to the dugout and shouted disgustedly, "My wife hits better than that!" At the 1990 All-Star Game, after a particularly poor session in the batting cage, Williams stormed to the dugout and yelled, "All-star, my ass!"

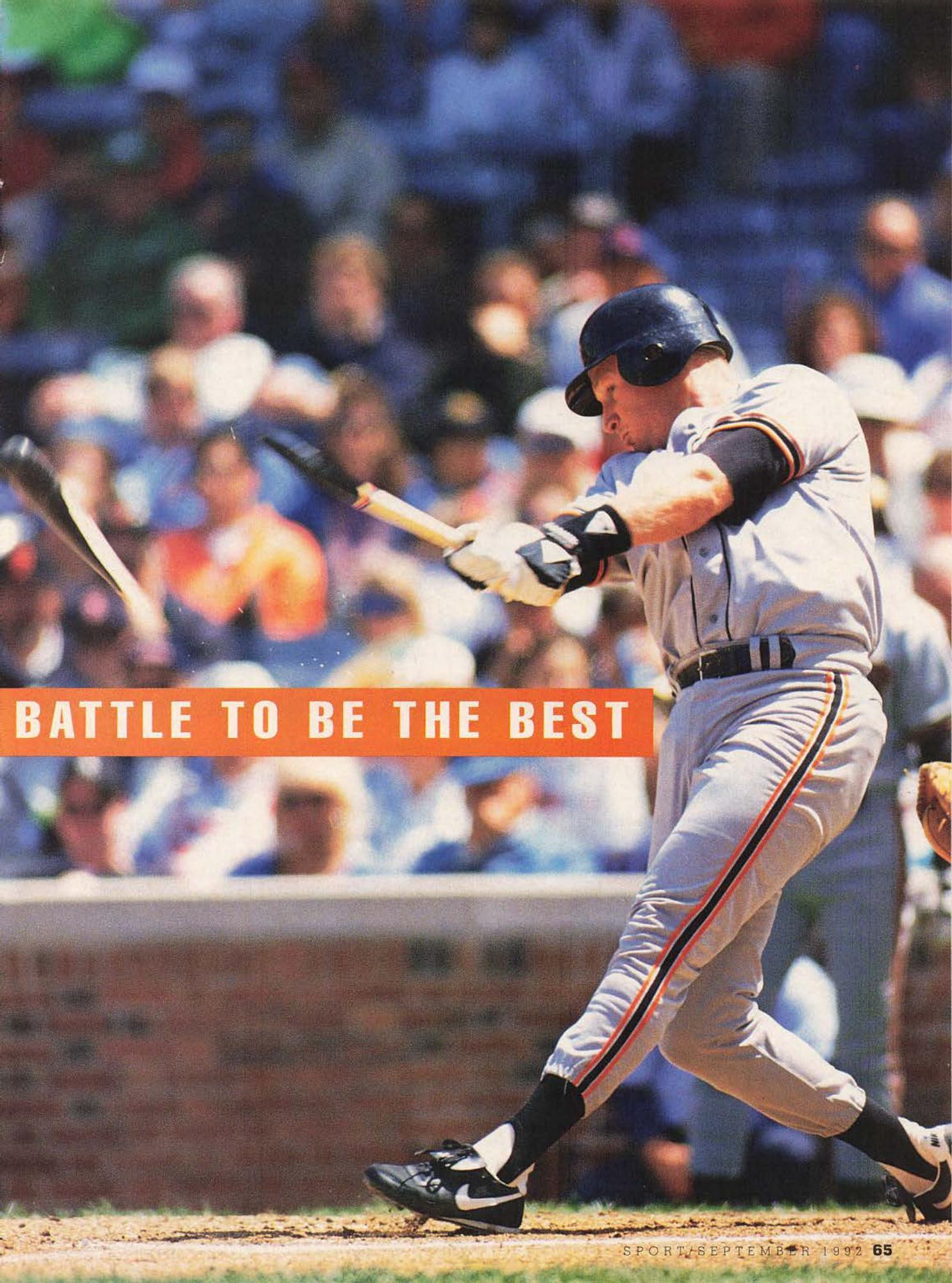
"Like I've told him, he's his own worst enemy," says his father, Arthur.

Matt Williams, only in his third full season, slammed 34 homers last year, second

boot, the best fielding third baseman in baseball.

He hammered two homers in his first playoff series, in '89 against the Cubs, and drove in nine runs, a record for a five-game series. He was in the minors only 10 weeks earlier, dealing with his third demotion in three years, the death of his best friend and the prospect of becoming a father for the first time.

Matt Williams, 26, has accomplished so much, performed so magnificently, yet he cannot—and will not—accept one measly 0 for 4. "When he played Little League, if he made a mistake, he'd come home angry, in a



BATTLE TO BE THE BEST

funk," says Sarah Williams, Matt's mother. "He'd never get angry if someone else failed. That was explainable. It wasn't explainable if Matt failed. We'd tell him, 'We're human; we make mistakes. No one's perfect.' But he never accepted it. He's always wanted to be the best he can possibly be, and if he doesn't meet his standards, he's down on himself."

Sarah and Arthur Williams once drove from their home in Carson City, Nev., to Stockton, Calif., to watch their son play. He was the starting shortstop for the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He was leading the nation in home runs. He was on a roll. Until that day. "He struggled at the plate," Sarah says. "Afterwards, he was angry. I said, 'Matty, you're leading the nation in home runs. You're an All-American!' He just said, 'Mom, an All-American should be able to hit the ball.'"

Williams' three older brothers all won the Pettijohn Award, given for academic and athletic achievement, at their high school in Big Pine, Calif. The trophies sat on a mantle in the living room. One day Matt said, "Mom, what happens if I don't win the Pettijohn Award?" Sarah Williams looked at her son with watery eyes, pulled him close and said, "Matthew, so what if you don't? It doesn't matter."

The award, nevertheless, became an obsession for him. He had to win it, just had to. His brothers did, right? "You know what we did?" Sarah Williams says. "We packed up the trophies and put them away."

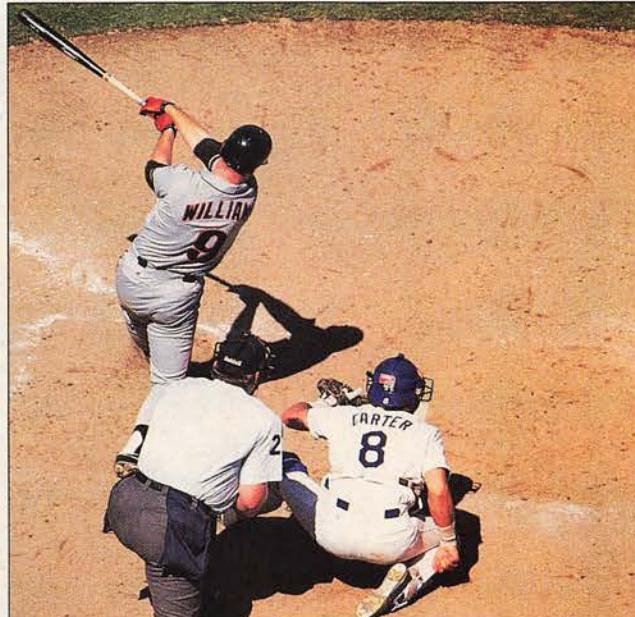
Matt did not win the Pettijohn Award.

"But he did something his brothers didn't," says his mom. "He made the majors, and he did it only one year after signing out of UNLV."

"I'm hard on myself," Williams says, "because I think I can do anything, because I think I can hit anyone anytime. I'm a perfectionist. I want things to work out. I want things to go my

"Matt's a unique player in these times, a throwback. Personal stats aren't the foremost thing with Matt. Winning is. Winning's Matt's priority. Not stats. Not personal glory. Not money."

—Giants coach Bob Brenly



Williams is one of baseball's best power hitters, having hit 101 homers by the age of 26.

way, and if they don't, I get mad."

He sacrificed a lot to reach this level of success. He lived a short hop from Lake Tahoe. When his buddies would pile into a Volkswagen Bug—"Come on, let's go, meat!"—for a weekend of sun and fun and ladies, Williams stayed behind. "Gotta take some extra cuts. Gotta take some grounders," he'd say.

"There were barbecues, dances, all kind of events that he'd miss," says Sarah Williams. "I'd tell him, 'Go on, Matt, have some fun.' He'd say, 'Mom, I've got a plan.'"

Major league baseball was his plan. "That's why I'm so serious," he says. "I worked hard for all these years to get here, and I don't want to

throw it all away."

He's so obsessed with perfection that once, during one of his slumps, he considered quitting and taking a job pumping gas. Another time, he called his mom from Shea Stadium and said, "Mom, I don't belong with these guys." Sarah Williams fired back: "Matty, if you're not having fun, if this game is causing you nothing but stress, then get out! But you and I both know that you belong in the majors."

The turning point for Matt Williams came during a two-day period in May of 1989. His average sunk to .130, his best friend had shot himself in the head, he was being shipped back to the minors for the third time in

three years, and he learned he was going to be a father. *All in two days.* The lowest point of his life—the death of his buddy and another demotion—turned euphoric—fatherhood—and for the first time, Williams' priorities fell into place. "When Tracie told me we were going to have a baby, after all the stuff happened, I realized, 'Hey, life's too short to place so much emphasis on a game,'" Williams says. "I was living and dying on every pitch."

Every manager, at some point, should manage someone like Matt Williams. He plays his butt off, every inning, every game. He never boasts, never mouths off, never moans about money. "He's the gamer of gamers," says Dodgers center fielder Brett Butler, who played three years with Williams.

Williams is gritty, hard-nosed and has a will to win that's unparalleled. "He hates losing," says Will Clark. "Hates it. He goes 4 for 4 and we lose, he's burning."

He refuses to sit out games, refuses to succumb to injury. "You gotta be careful with Matty," says Craig. "He won't tell you he's hurt. You gotta keep an eye on him, see when he's going into the trainer's room."

"Matt's a unique player in these times, a throwback," says Brenly. "Personal stats aren't the foremost thing with Matt. Winning is. Winning's Matt's priority. Not stats. Not personal glory. Not money."

Williams is uncomfortable with stardom. "I've never handled this star thing well," he says. He's never considered himself a star. Not in Little League, high school, college, minors or majors. "He always felt he could do better, that's why," says Arthur Williams. "Plus, he's so modest."

Williams isn't even impressed with his RBI crown, refusing to call 122 RBI great. "Is that great compared to the 190 RBI Hack Wilson had one year [1930]?" he says. "No way."

"Matt accepts his place

among stars, but in a modest and humble way, not in a way Jose Canseco or Will Clark do," says Brenly. "They look forward to the camera being on them, when every eye in the park is on them. Matt doesn't crave that kind of attention, but he thrives on those situations, just like Canseco and Clark. You'll never see him mugging the camera or dropping his jaw like Will does, or pumping his biceps like Canseco. Matty just approaches things and accepts them in a different way than the normal superstar would."

He's so humble and modest that he can have a good week in seven innings and you'd never know it, never suspect it. He once hit three homers in a game at UNLV, talked to his parents afterwards but said nothing about his performance. They didn't learn about the long-ball spree until reading it in the newspaper the next day. "Next time we spoke, you know what Matt said?" says his dad. "I got lucky; the conditions were right."

Once, after picking Matt up after a game, Tracie Williams asked, "How you'd do, honey?" He replied sullenly, "Got a couple hits."

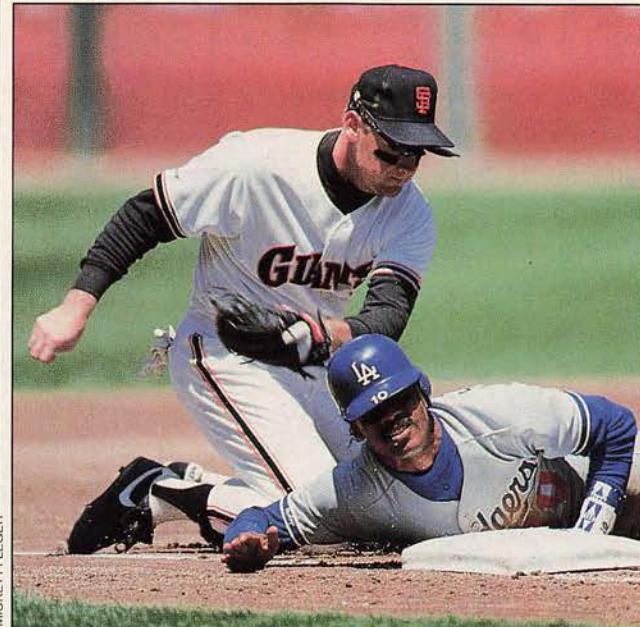
They happened to be home runs.

"I learned that if you boast, you're setting yourself up for failure, for disappointment, and that's foolish," Williams says.

Matt Williams sits at his locker, his head bowed, mumbling to himself. Pitcher Trevor Wilson strolls by and does a double take. "Then it hits me—he's imitating Willie McGee," Wilson says. "That's what Willie does before games—sits at his locker, looking down, mumbling; that's how he mentally prepares himself for games."

Roger Craig shouldn't have been surprised when Williams turned his role-changing ploy into a comedy routine that day in Pittsburgh. He's been mimicking Craig, Will Clark, Babe Ruth, Bran-

"When he played Little League, if he made a mistake, he'd come home angry, in a funk. He'd never get angry if someone else failed. That was explainable. It wasn't explainable if Matt failed." —Sarah Williams



Williams made the switch from shortstop to third base and captured a Gold Glove.

do, John Wayne, everyone, for years.

"Matty's got a photographic memory," says Brenly. "First time he saw [teammate] Cory Snyder hit, he had him down pat. The grip, the feet, the hands, everything."

His Marlon Brando is impeccable, according to Sarah Williams. "He dressed up once like Brando in 'The Godfather,'" she says. "I remember walking past his room, hearing him do John Wayne, Howard Cosell, Brando. He was good."

His Will Clark breaks up the clubhouse. "Foot rocking, bat wiggling, jaw dropping, the arm going up like a shield covering his face after Will homers," says Brenly, shaking his head.

"I'm strange," says Williams, trying to explain how his penchant for impersonations contradicts his serious nature. "I'm serious when I have to be serious, and I screw around when it's time to have fun. Sometimes I just act like a kid. I can't explain it."

"It's like he's got two personalities," says Brenly. "He does things that are out of character. He shocks you because he's a guy who's so serious, so hard on himself, and even a little shy, yet he can be so funny."

Says Al Rosen, a former all-star third baseman who won two RBI titles, a home-run crown and an MVP in 1953, and made Williams his first draft pick after becom-

ing the Giants' general manager: "Matt appears to be shy, almost reclusive, but when you get to know him, you see his sense of humor has no bounds. He's not introspective or outwardly gregarious, but he's a funny person."

The imitation that people rave about is Williams' Babe Ruth. On Turn Back The Clock Day at Candlestick Park—a day in which the Giants, hosting the Cubs, wore early-century uniforms and celebrated a time when there weren't \$30 million contracts or sushi stands behind aisle 29—Williams' Ruth impersonation "brought the house down," Craig says.

After the day's ceremonies, and after the crowd settled back, Williams, a pillow stuffed in his jersey, emerged from the dugout, ambled toward the plate, turned to the crowd—which was already applauding wildly—and tipped his cap. He stood in the batter's box, adopting a Ruthian stance, pointed to the center-field bleachers, just as Ruth supposedly did when calling his shot in the 1935 World Series against the Cubs. Then Ruth, er, Williams, swung his bat in slow motion, watched the flight of the invisible ball descend over the fence, and began the grand tour around the bases—just as Ruth once did, in short, choppy steps. Coming around third, Williams even waved to the Cubs to sit down, just as Ruth is said to have done, then ducked into the dugout as the fans, his teammates and the Cubs clapped wildly.

"The [1935] Cubs supposedly got on Ruth when he came up," Williams says. "They were saying they were going to strike him out, and that's why he gestured comin' around third base, telling them to 'sit down [chumps].'" He showed them up. They boasted they could get him out, and, see—they set themselves up for failure."

Which is something Matt Williams will never do.★

"How Does Arnold Do It?" (cont'd)

JW: John, you've had one heck of a year.

JA: Thanks, Jay, I know.

JW: Let's go over the highlights: two perfect games, 17 in the "W" column, a phenomenal 1.85 ERA, 10 homers, 26 RBI's, and three walks...

JA: One, really. Ramirez stepped into the pitch.

JW: You mean the *late* Pascual Ramirez?

JA: Right.

JW: Regardless, John, you're one hot item. You took the Tuna Salad Invitational Fishing Tournament in Cleveland in the off-season, too.

JA: Y'know, if we can stop for just a second, I'd like to tell your readers something...

JW: Sure.

JA: I'd like to congratulate anybody totally nuts enough to have read this far. Reason being, the first 1,000 folks to write will win a free PayDay Totally Nuts T-Shirt. Just write: PayDay Surprise T-Shirt Offer, P.O. Box 4048, Monticello, MN 55565-4048. (One size fits all.) This offer is running in several magazines during August, September and October, so mail in your request promptly because we can only honor the first 1,000.

JW: Fair enough, John. Anything else I'm forgetting?

JA: Yeah, I've beaten my 10-year-old son at every Nintendo game in existence. His ego's a little bruised but he's got to learn about losing. It's pretty important. You've gotta' be humble, ya' know. And I believe humiliation is the best way to learn humbleness.

JW: Couldn't agree more, John. So how'd you do it, John? You training dif-

ferently? Mo-

weights? Ne-

diet? Ne-

sleep?

What

th-

behind John Arnold's success?

JA: It's attitude, Jay. It's all totally attitude. Look, I'm 30 years old. Guys half my age are gunning for my job, so I've gotta' keep a totally open and "up" attitude. Now all I think about is winning. And the screenplay I'm writing.

JW: Screenplay?

JA: That's right, Jay. I'm seeking total spiritual and financial harmony by channeling my energy into this screenplay. The working title is "Beyond Relief: The John Arnold Story."

W: I like it. Another baseball wordplay thing...

JW: Uh huh.

JA: I've gotten a lot better since then. Any way, the other exciting thing is that Odilia DeCampi, the famous Italian movie goddess is gonna' play my high school sweetheart when I was in Indiana.

JW: Is that a little weird, John? I mean,

an Italian film goddess playing a wholesome country girl from the Midwest?

JA: Well, once she

lose the accent, I'm pretty sure she'll be great. I mean, she's really versatile. I think she sees it as a challenge.

JW: So she needs the work?

JA: Yea, that too.

JW: A great season

a screen play an victorious tuna fishing... what's next? "Full Auto" Arnold?

for John

JA: Food.



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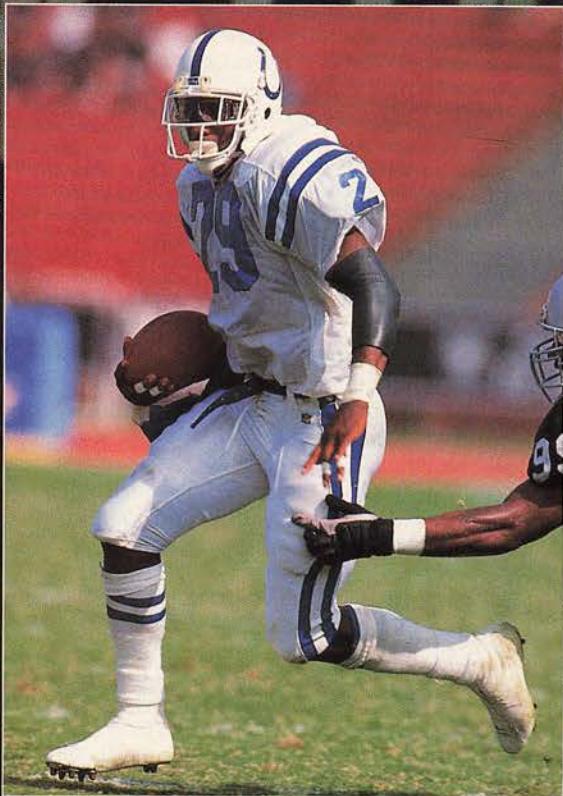
JW: You mean you're gonna' open a restaurant or something?

JA: No. I'm thinking about downing this PayDay candy bar. It's got the taste I like and it's loaded with peanuts. Why, Jay,

A: Yeah, it's kind of a theme. It's about how I started out as a young, naive, country boy and rose to stardom when I took a mighty bus to the big city. It's got drama, adventure, baseball, some racy stuff and more baseball. What's really exciting about it, Jay, is that I'm gonna' play myself.

JW: That's fascinating, John. I didn't realize you were an actor.

JA: Well, you've seen my commercials, right?



ERIC DICKERSON

"I'VE TAKEN MY LUMPS."



The last time Eric Dimitric Dickerson led the NFL in rushing was 1988. His longest run in the last three seasons came on a 28-yard draw, and it was a meaningless play, since there were 30 seconds left in the half, his Colts trailed the Raiders by 16 points, and it was third-and-forever. The Raiders backed up in a prevent and let him run.

"I used to have runs like that all the time," says Dickerson, who will be running for the Raiders this season. "Three or four of them in a single game. It's been frustrating; no one knows how frustrating."

Dickerson turns 32 on September 2. This will be his 10th season. Most of his career has been controversial, as the game's ultimate mercenary running back has seemed to constantly haggle over money. Contract holdouts separated him from the Rams and his coach, John Robinson, in 1987, and the size of his salary (four

Dickerson says being traded to the Raiders was like getting drafted all over again.

BY JOHN CZARNECKI



years, \$10.65 million) forced the Colts to unload him on the Raiders for two measly midround draft choices last April. Al Davis, managing general partner of the Raiders, even convinced him to accept a salary reduction of more than \$1 million in order to return to California and his Malibu mansion for his last hurrah.

Dickerson, the game's No. 3 all-time rusher with 12,439 yards, needs 301 yards to pass Tony Dorsett and 4,288 yards to break Walter Payton's record of 16,726. Robinson, who, as the Rams' coach watched Dickerson run for 2,105 yards in 1984, says Dickerson has two good seasons left, and that "he's still capable of putting a good team over the top."

He's in excellent shape, weighing 220 pounds, the same as in his rookie season of 1983—and he's excited about the Raiders' running game. "We're going to run a lot of tosses, off-tackle plays, misdirection and gap plays, like with the Rams," he says. "I begged them for stuff like that in Indianapolis. I pleaded with the coaches. I don't want to knock them, but the offensive scheme we were running was designed for a fullback, not a tailback."

Through all the controversy, criticism, contract problems and losing seasons, life has slowed down for Dickerson off the

field. He returned to Texas this summer with his 4-year-old daughter, Erica, to visit Viola, the great-aunt who raised him. Viola is 88, and Dickerson brags of having a 103-year-old cousin and another relative age 101. About the only subject that truly scares him is vampires. He's read novelist Anne Rice's entire collection of the "Vampire Chronicles." "I always make sure I pull the covers up over my neck at night," he says with a laugh.

"I feel more comfortable here than I've felt anywhere. Even with the Rams. Sometimes I feel this is the place I should have been all along."

SPORT: You seem really happy about being a Raider. Are you?

DICKERSON: I am. I've been acting like a kid since it's happened. It's almost like

getting drafted all over again.

SPORT: What do you think about your new teammates? There are some interesting personalities here, huh?

DICKERSON: There are a lot of guys here I've played against, like Ronnie Lott, Howie [Long]. Guys I've met at the Pro Bowl. You don't have the ego problems here that you might have elsewhere. There are a lot of big-name guys here. And the thing I like, I don't have to assume the whole burden. When we lost in Indianapolis, it was like I lost the game. There were too many games where I wasn't even coming close to 100 yards.

SPORT: Everyone says the Raiders are where malcontents end up, that this is their last chance. Is this yours?

DICKERSON: All I can say is, I'm very happy to be here. I feel more comfortable here than I've felt anywhere. Even with the Rams. Sometimes I feel this is the place I should have been all along.

SPORT: Is that because you're older and have a greater sense of perspective?

DICKERSON: No, it's just a feeling that I have. Everyone has a comfort zone. This



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seems to be mine.

SPORT: When you returned to Anaheim the first time with the Colts, the fans tossed Monopoly money at you and called you Eric the Ingrate. What did you think of that, and do you expect that kind of response from L.A. fans?

DICKERSON: No, Raider fans aren't like Ram fans. [L.A.] is totally different from Orange County. I'm sure Raider fans are happy I'm here.

SPORT: What do you think of your coach, Art Shell?

DICKERSON: I like Art. But most of all, I respect him because he's a fellow player. I really like his personality. Just come out, practice and play, everything is OK. If you mess up, then I have to reprimand you. It's like Al Davis' attitude—just win, baby. That's what it's all about. I think people have a tendency to forget that when they're geared just to their accomplishments. It's like if you rush for 2,000 yards and only win seven games—losing takes away from that achievement.

SPORT: Why do people think you're only out for yourself?

DICKERSON: Because of my contract problems, even though there are players and fans who believe I hogged the ball. I never asked John Robinson for the ball. He gave it to me. Never once did I ever demand it.

SPORT: Robinson told us that you've patched up your relationship. True?

DICKERSON: We said "Hi" one night at the Forum Club [in Los Angeles]. We chatted, asking how the other was doing. With John, it was never personal until that one contract hassle [in 1987, the year of the players' strike]. I agree that some of the things I said were not mature [such as the infamous "Let Robinson run 47-Gap"]. They were childish. It was out of frustration and hurt. I thought I had given my all and felt I was betrayed. Now I don't feel like that. Now I understand he was doing what he thought was best for his football team.

SPORT: Why do you think Rams quarterback Jim Everett ripped you, saying you weren't a team player?

DICKERSON: He was young then ['87] and he really didn't know my contractual situation. People say we were fighting for

control of the team, but I never was into that. Some quarterbacks feel like they have to be in control of that.

SPORT: Everett's taken his lumps the last two seasons, huh?

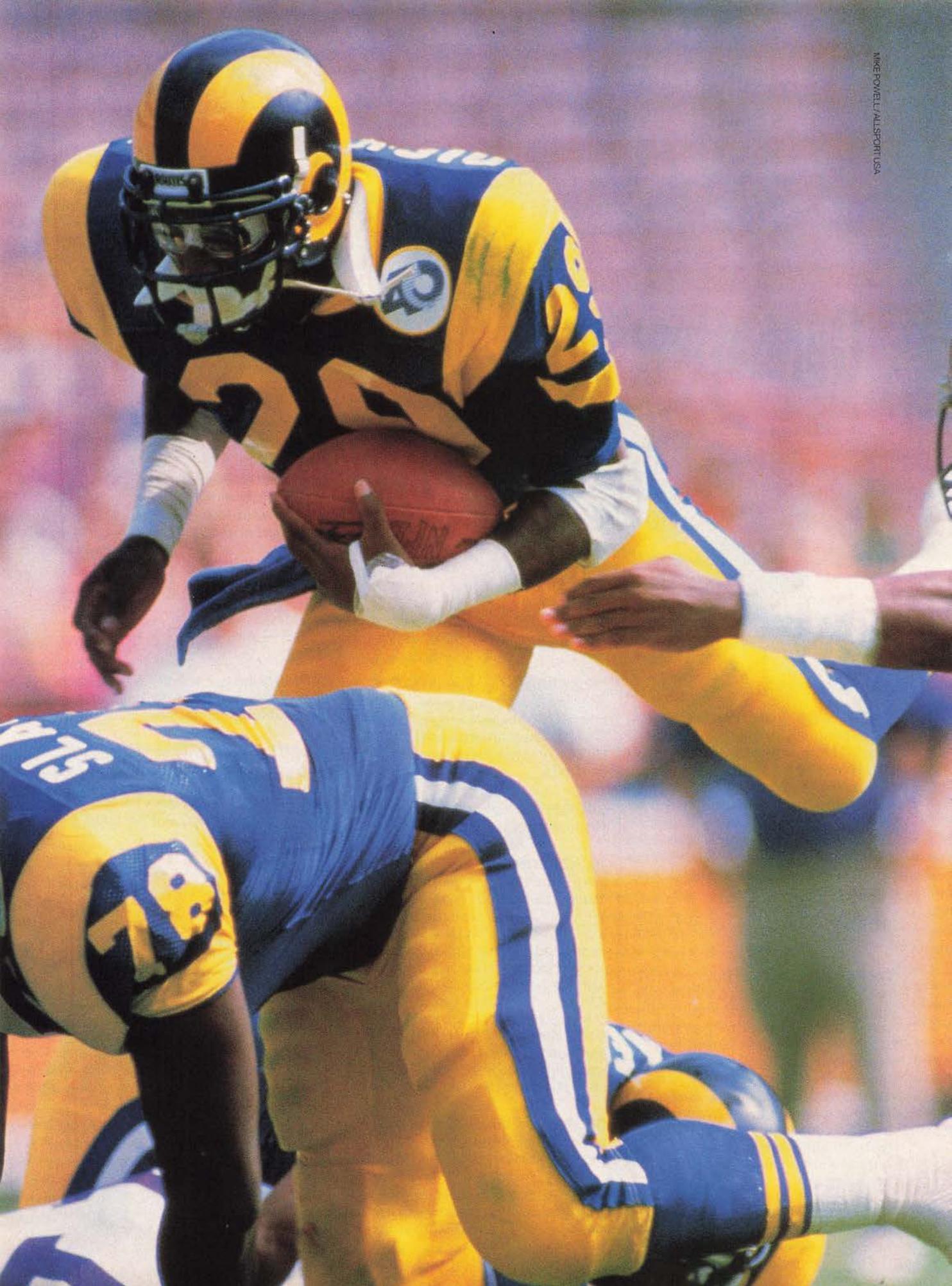
DICKERSON: I don't really know what's going on down there. But I've taken my lumps too.

SPORT: We know you've never been a big fan of watching football, but which running back do you like watching?

DICKERSON: Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas. But the guy I've been watching since college is Emmitt Smith. I liked him in college [Florida]. I used to talk him up in the locker room then. "Watch this guy when he gets to the pros," I'd say. He didn't have a lot of speed, but he always had great moves. I liked that a lot. He's probably my favorite back.

SPORT: Why do you think backs such as you and the three you mentioned are able to enter the league and immediately dominate?

DICKERSON: To a back, unlike a quarterback, it just comes natural. It's a gift. A coach cannot teach you how to run a foot-



ball. The only thing they can teach you is the plays. In practice, he can tell you "I want you to go here, take two steps, turn and go this way." OK, in practice I'll do that. When it comes game time, I'm going to do it my own way. And he isn't going to know the difference. When I score a touchdown, he's going to be screaming, "Yeah, you did it perfect." A quarterback has to take more time learning. All I do is just watch guys move in color, that's all I watch.

SPORT: Have you lost some speed?

DICKERSON: I have, but I really don't feel it.

"There are a lot of big-name guys here. And the thing I like, I don't have to assume the whole burden. When we lost in Indianapolis, it was like I lost the game."

SPORT: Do you think you have a shot at Payton's record?

DICKERSON: Yeah. I just find that funny, guys saying, "I don't think you can get it now." All my friends think I'll get it. I never used to think about records. But I care about it now because people are talking about it more, and most are saying I can't do it. But I'll do it.

SPORT: You once said Bo Jackson wasn't in your caliber. Still think that?

DICKERSON: He was a great football player. If he would have stayed healthy, I always felt like he would have finally chosen baseball. I always thought you should make up your mind, but he was good at both. It's almost like a curse, and Bo didn't know what he wanted to do. And it cost him in a way because that's why he got hurt....If he hadn't been playing baseball and had he been strictly a football player, his career wouldn't be over. He wasn't ever fully prepared for everything that can happen in football.

Dickerson rushed for a league-record 2,105 yards with the Rams in 1984.

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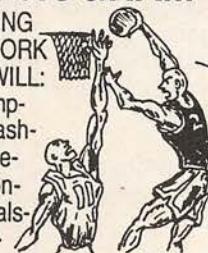
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MIKE POWELL/ALLSPORT USA
DICKERSON: I can't say. I don't even want to guess.

SPORT: When Bob Irsay said last season [that] he wasn't going to pay \$2 million to a back who only gained 500 yards, did you know you were out of there?

DICKERSON: Yeah, I thought I had a shot. Too bad, it was great for a while there. But like they say, a lot of good things come to an end.

SPORT: Why do you think they didn't get offensive linemen to help you and George?

DICKERSON: I still don't know to this day why. You figure if you have the talent that the talent can hide other shortcomings. Like Jeff. He has such a powerful arm that he can scramble away and still make a play without good blocking. They might have thought the same way about me.

SPORT: But Payton didn't always have a great offensive line either, right?

DICKERSON: No matter how good you are, you need an offensive line. I don't care how good you are. I do know you can make an average back a good back behind a great offensive line. But you can make a great back an even greater back behind a good offensive line. That's what happened with the Rams.

SPORT: How rough was last year's 1-15 season?

DICKERSON: Very rough. I want to win every time I go out. That's why I go on the field. To win. But to look around the locker room [at] the guys' faces...well, you could tell there was no chance for us to win. It was hard when maybe there were five or 10 of us who felt we could win. I'm not a good loser. I don't believe in such things, that you have to be a good loser. You show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser in life. I'm not going to tear up the locker room, but it sticks in my mind. I think about it over and over. I'm sure there are some guys who don't care; they just want to get their paycheck and that's it.

SPORT: Do you think people believe you when you say such things, particularly since you're perceived as selfish and greedy?

DICKERSON: I don't know. I can't say. And I really don't think about that. The only thing I think about is that I want a chance to win. The other stuff takes care of itself.

Dickerson broke away from the Rams after years of 100-yard games and strained relations with the team.

SPORT: Herschel Walker wasn't one of your favorites either. How come?

DICKERSON: Herschel has always been a different kind of runner than me. He reminds me more of a fast fullback, not a tailback. But put him in the right scheme and he's still a good football player.

SPORT: What do you think of Ron Meyer, your old college coach and the ex-Colts coach?

DICKERSON: Financially, he did me a favor, convincing the Colts to trade for me. It was a good move for me at the time. Had we just kept building our team, I think we could have had a real good team. I really believe that, but things didn't go right. I enjoyed playing for Ron. I just hated to see the way things went for him when he left.

SPORT: But you said he wasn't a great coach and that his greatest strength was organizing, finding players.

DICKERSON: I don't want to say anything bad about him. He's playing golf every day. Let him have fun.

SPORT: OK, then, what do you think of [Colts general manager] Jimmy Irsay?

DICKERSON: [Laughs]. Just like everyone who starts a business, you have to learn a lot. He's still learning.

"If we had Jeff George here we'd go to the Super Bowl."

SPORT: Did he have the wrong impression of you?

DICKERSON: I don't know if he looked at me as being a savior, or what, but one player can't save a football team. It takes a team effort. Take Jeff George, because he's still there. They have to build a team around him and get him an offensive line.

SPORT: Can Irsay only do so much because of his father [team owner Bob Irsay]?

SPORT: Would you have gone back to the Rams for less money? Or, say, the Eagles, Giants or Redskins?

DICKERSON: Not the Rams. The Redskins, maybe. Here [L.A.] was my first choice. This is where I wanted to come. I like California and the Raiders. I think this team will always have a chance to win because the owner's main priority is to win.

SPORT: Some would say you've never been on a great team. Do you agree?

DICKERSON: Yes. I've been on some good teams, but we were missing a few players. We went to the NFC championship [in '85 with the Rams]. I felt we were a good team, but I didn't think we were any better than our team the year before. Our defense was playing real well at that time. But Chicago was a great team. If we would have had a quarterback, I mean a good quarterback, or if Deiter [Brock, the QB] would have had a better day, we would have had a chance to win.

SPORT: What do you think of the Raiders' quarterbacks, Todd Marinovich and Jay Schroeder?

DICKERSON: I haven't played with them [in regular-season games] yet, but I've told people that if we had Jeff George here we'd go to the Super Bowl. Man, he's got a strong arm. I liked how he handled himself with the Colts with all the adversity he faced. He's a player and a competitor.

SPORT: We know you've never been a

drinker or drug user, but you've been known as a ladies' man. What did you think when you heard about Magic Johnson being HIV-positive?

DICKERSON: I was sad. I was scared. A lot of people were. But I didn't date the same people he did. I've changed that life anyway. I have someone I see, and someday I may actually get married. But not until I'm done playing football. You can't be playing—all the women that just throw themselves at you—and be married. It's impossible.

SPORT: If you have a great season this year, will you try to renegotiate?

DICKERSON: No. It will never be a situation with the Raiders like it was with the Rams. I think dealing with Al Davis will be almost like dealing with myself. I think I'm a fair person. All I've ever asked anyone is to be fair. I believe he's a fair man.

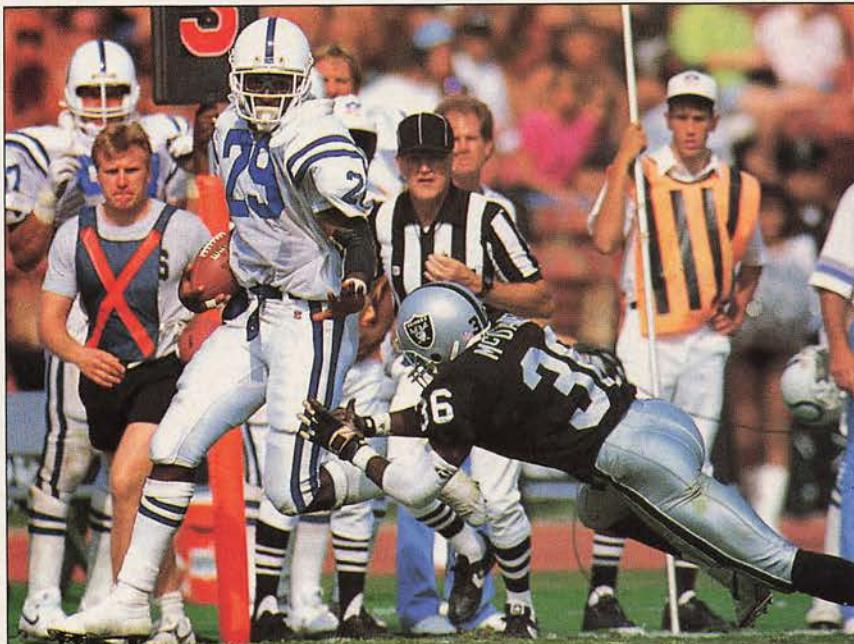
SPORT: What will you do when you're finished with football?

DICKERSON: Go back to Texas [his hometown is Sealy, Texas] and disappear.

SPORT: You don't want to own a football team?

DICKERSON: [Laughs] Naw, I wouldn't want to deal with all the contract problems, all the holdouts.★

John Czarnecki is the editorial consultant for CBS' "NFL Today" show.



As a Colt, Dickerson was hampered by a poor offensive line and bitter contract disputes with team management.



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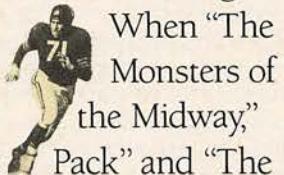
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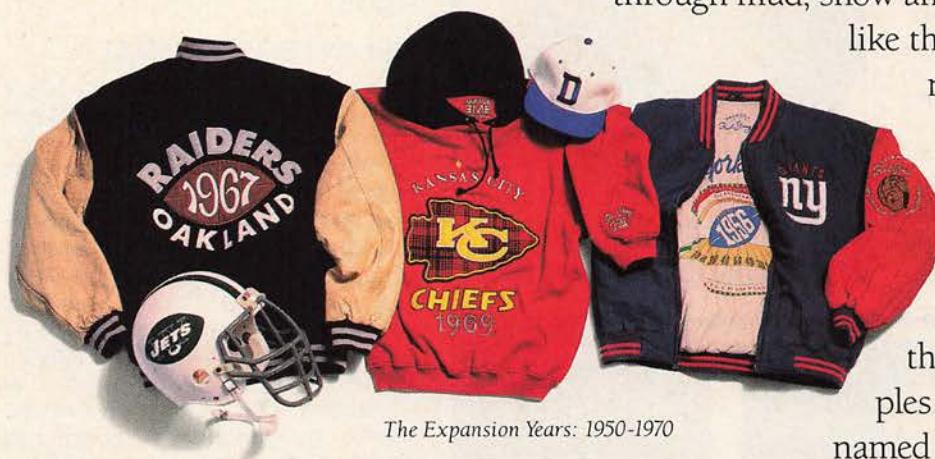
The Originals: 1920-1950

Return to the days when iron men clad in leather helmets and wool jerseys charged through mud, snow and each other. When teams like the 1922 Canton Bulldogs

ruled.



When "The Monsters of the Midway," "The Pack" and "The Steel Curtain" stormed down the field and into the history books. And temples of concrete and steel named Memorial Stadium and



The Expansion Years: 1950-1970

Soldier Field echoed with a nation's love for the game.

Try out our full line of authentic, weathered jackets, jerseys, caps and even helmets and experience for yourself the patterns that turned men into legends.



The Modern Era: 1970-1990

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Look for Throwbacks™ at a store near you. For your official NFL Catalog, please send \$1.00 to NFL Catalog, 10812 Alder Circle, STE. 1467, Dallas, TX 75238.

Get on the inside of the NFL. Connect with the official Team NFL Insider Hotline. 1-900-535-9000 [75¢/minute]

Action photo by Vernon Biever/NFL Photos.



by Team 

NFL PROPERTIES

the post-season games are virtually unobtainable, and the excitement and tension are substantial.

Football fever has spread to Europe through the America Bowl and the recently founded World League of American Football. 1992 will mark the seventh year the NFL has traveled across the Atlantic. More recently Asia was introduced to live NFL football.

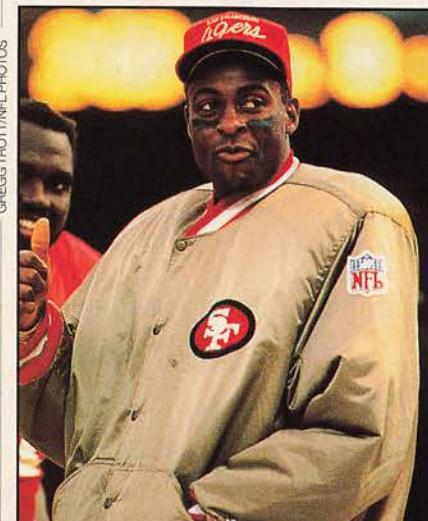
The NFL understands the first rule of business is to satisfy the customer, and that customer is the fan, far and away the most important player in the game. Without the fan there's no game, no league, no teams—nothing.

To be successful and prosperous, the NFL must constantly communicate with its clientele, the fans, to learn their interests and needs and then to provide the highest quality products so fans will remain committed and loyal.

ENTER NFL PROPERTIES!

Started in 1963, NFLP is the centralized marketing arm of the 28 member clubs and the League. The company was formed to capitalize on the trademarks of the NFL and member clubs via licenses to manufacturers and corporations while providing professional marketing expertise, club service and quality control. NFLP's scope is worldwide.

John Bello, president of NFL Properties states, "NFL Properties is above all an instrument of goodwill for the NFL. Our first and foremost objective is to expand the fan's interest, enjoyment and involvement in the game, the NFL, its clubs, and its players." In short, to bring the game a little closer to the fan.



Players such as Jerry Rice attract tremendous attention to themselves, their team and the NFL.

GREGG TROT/NFL PHOTOS

THE NFL GAME PLAN

NFL Properties is composed of five main areas: international, retail licensing, marketing and promotions, publishing and special events.

From its simple beginnings in the early '60s, NFL Properties has taken the fast track. By the '70s retail sales of NFL merchandise were close to \$2 million. In 1980 those figures reached the \$100 million mark. Five years later they reached \$500 million.

The marriage of football and corporate America has experienced similar growth with the number of NFL Properties sponsors growing more than tenfold in the past 15 years. The new approach has paid off handsomely. Last year NFL-licensed merchandise sold to the tune of some \$2.2 billion. That's a figure larger than some countries' entire gross national product and all other sports leagues.

NFL INTERNATIONAL

The international market is the NFL's latest area of growth. Global interest was sparked seven years ago when the inaugural American Bowl game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Chicago Bears was played in London's Wembley Stadium. The success of the initial London games was followed four years ago by the addition of an American Bowl game played in Tokyo and a year later by a third American Bowl added in Berlin. These games, along with substantial television coverage, provide a critical spark to ignite additional exposure and interest for the game overseas. Millions of fans now watch regular-season games, highlights packages and the Super Bowl, which is broadcast live to over 35 countries around the world.

A little over two years ago the NFL debuted its dramatic plan to further take American football to the rest of the world. This plan, under the direction of NFL International, is responsible for guiding all elements of international development, including continued and expanded American Bowl games as well as the World League of American Football and a well-formulated game plan that includes exhibition games, amateur leagues, grassroot development, television placement, media and public relations, licensing and marketing.

The plan has succeeded so far. NFL news, schedules and game coverage are now a regular feature in the sports sections of leading daily newspapers

NFL Properties has in recent years taken to working much closer with the players in the NFL, resulting in the development of such programs as the Quarterback Club and Team NFL Players.

EMMITT SMITH • DALLAS COWBOYS

PHOTO BY KEN NATION

LOOK FOR THE STARS AND YOU'LL FIND

STARTER®

NFL PROPERTIES

from London to Tokyo. In the U.K. the NFL has developed an "NFL Hotline" with information such as scouting reports, scores and postgame interviews. 10,000 young men now participate in the NFL-endorsed British American Football League.

The World League launched in 1991 and now just completing its second season is composed of 10 teams playing a 10-game schedule across North America and Europe. The World League also represents a significant licensing opportunity. Jim Connelly, vice president of international marketing, states that NFL International has grown to include over 125 licensees with retail sales hitting the \$250 million mark. The future for the NFL and NFL Properties looks bright. If these first few years are any indication, the world is ready and eager for American football.

RETAIL LICENSING

One of NFL Properties' major revenue sources is licensing and selling NFL products. This means getting NFL merchandise manufactured, distributed, put on the shelves and available to the fan. In today's market this is a highly competitive and complicated business.

Overseeing the licensing of NFL products is a tremendous undertaking. Frank Vuono, vice president of retail licensing says, "Delivering the NFL experience to fans is a great business opportunity as well as quite a responsibility. We have to make sure the fan gets what he wants and be sure that the product we deliver is up to the NFL's quality and standards."

Picking the right time to develop and offer the correct item to the appropriate fan with the correct marketing support is a huge challenge because the demographics of the typical fan vary widely. Frank Vuono sums it up: "NFL Properties does not want to be selling the same merchandise to the guy sitting in the end zone as you position for the guy sitting up in the luxury sky box. The promise to all the fans is the same, but we deliver on that promise in different ways." Ray Katz director of licensing development adds, "We are developing integrated programs which tie in sponsorship, licensing and publishing as well as targeted marketing efforts directed at the college market and other market segments."

Some people are looking for a \$400 leather jacket with the 1967 Green Bay Packers logo on the back. Others are looking for a \$10 cap or T-shirt. To fulfill these varied tastes, NFL Properties has

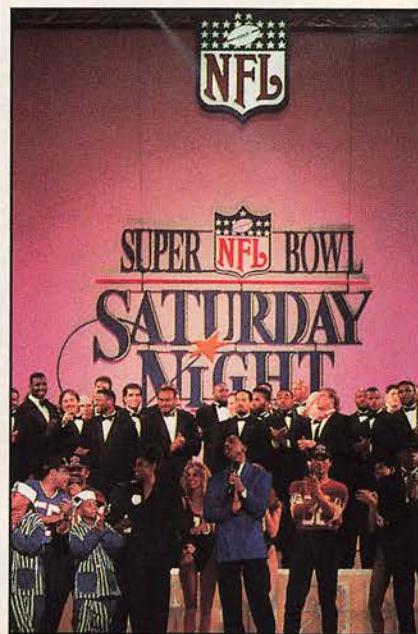
licensed about 350 companies and manufacturers to produce 2,500 products, including hats, shirts, jackets, balls, uniforms, shoes, telephones, sheets, furniture and much more.

The largest licensee is Starter. Starter, licensed since 1983, sold 3 million team jackets last year. "Starter is NFL

Properties' largest licensee. They really pulled away from the pack," says Jeff Sofka, licensing director. "They have achieved this success through a commitment to quality products, advertising focused merchandising, an ability to control distribution and creating an image of exclusivity and showcasing their



The NFL has gone global and so has NFL Properties. Fan interest in Europe, and more recently Japan, is almost as intense as in the U.S. and growing steadily.



Television events such as Super Bowl Saturday Night are a growing aspect of the NFL story.

products on the NFL sidelines."

Longstanding licensees include Logo 7, Nutmeg Mills, Apex One, AJD, Champion, Riddell, Russell, Sport Specialties, Salem Sportswear and Zubaz—only a few of the organizations selected to manufacture NFL products. A new addition to the NFL family is Bulova Corp. and its Sportstime line. The line made its debut in 1990 and has quickly grown from a single style to 10 different styles available with all 28 team logos.

The retail business segment concerns itself with four areas: apparel, non-apparel, collectibles and packaged goods. The current marketing strategy features a three-tiered program consisting of the Performance, Fashion and Foundation programs and reflects the three distinct distribution channels.

PERFORMANCE

The Performance market, introduced in 1986, concentrates mainly on the NFL Pro Line. This line features items that NFL players, coaches and anyone connected with the game wear on and



P R O F I L E



MICHAEL IRVIN ON BIG RECEPTIONS, ROARING CROWDS & FAMILY & REUNIONS.

He talks a big game. Then every week, he goes out and plays one. Last season, Michael Irvin led the league in receiving yardage and snatched Pro Bowl MVP honors just by doing what he does best.

Making the big play.

And when he's not bringing the crowd to its feet, he could be sitting down with one for dinner. One of 17 kids, Michael Irvin learned how to make his presence felt at an early age. Maybe that's why today he has the makings of such a fierce competitor. That includes the clothes he wears on the field. NFL

Pro Line™ Authentic NFL clothing from coaches' jackets, shirts and hats to players' jerseys, sweats, warmups and equipment that you can wear, too. Each designed to meet the standards of the people who set the standards in the NFL.

People like Michael Irvin.



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The NFL brings you even closer to the game's biggest stars with Pro Line Profiles™. The most up-close-and-personal trading cards ever produced.

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NFL PROPERTIES

around the field. Also included in the performance tier is NFL Pro Shop, which provides the clothing and equipment worn and used by Payne Stewart of the PGA Tour.

FASHION

The second tier of the NFL Properties plan is the Fashion lineup, which markets the Team NFL Collection. The classic NFL Collection is now the mainstay of the NFL's fashion marketing strategy and is found exclusively in department stores, fan shops and upscale retailers. The designs and innovative graphics were created for each of the NFL member teams and include a collection of patches and labels. Jeff Sofka explains "Brands like Polo, Levi's and Guess are coming after our business with team sports fashion looks, and we [the NFL], being the first in the team sports apparel business as far back as 1963, believe this is a way to bring the fashion elements happening in the marketplace and inspired by our business back home to where it all began."

Fashion Programs entering their second year at NFL Properties are Throwbacks and Spirit. Throwbacks responds to fan interest in nostalgia and brings the fashion, teams and players of yesteryear to life. Spirit is designed for women. Since some 42 percent of NFL fans are women, it's a significant opportunity.

FOUNDATION

The third marketing program is Foundation, which includes Game Day, NFL Kids Collectibles and Team NFL Players. Foundation items capture the fun and excitement of the game and al-

low fans to make a statement through popular mass-market products. Game Day products satisfy price-driven customers.

NFL Kids is a major emerging segment in the NFL Properties story. Frank Vuono states, "Kids are one of our top priorities going forward. They are the long-term equity of the game and our business." The children's market makes up almost 25 percent of total sales. Because the children's division hasn't experienced anywhere near the success the rest of retail licensing has enjoyed,

NFL Kids efforts has been revitalized.

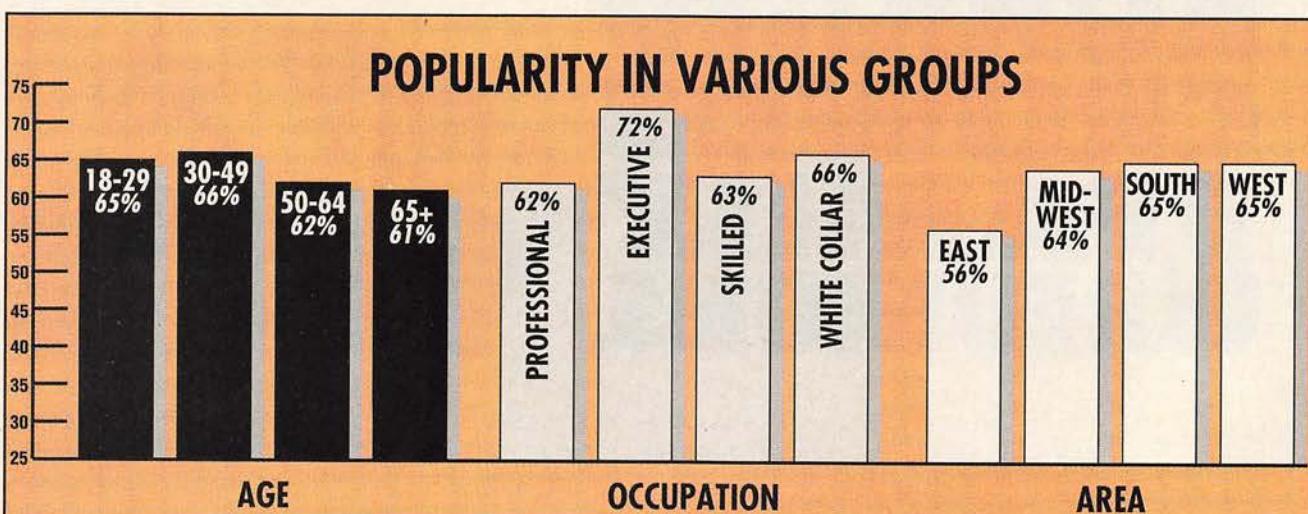
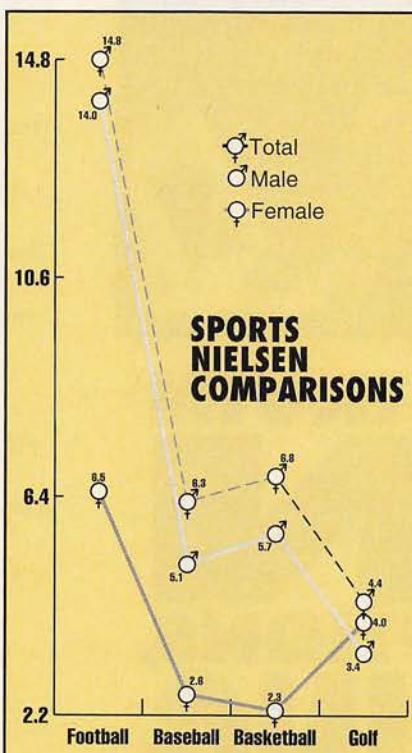
Future plans for NFL Properties to service the mass market include the newly conceived Packaged Goods program, which will boast food stuffs, health and beauty aids and related items. A couple of other new avenues are the NFL Team Home Shop for home furnishings and the NFL Pet Shop, so man's best friend can declare his loyalties.

A very important aspect of NFLP's integrated marketing effort, and a big reason for the NFL's retail success is the support provided by NFL Properties to the retailers who sell its products. NFL Properties provides a full program for retailers that centers around the concept of Team NFL: NFL Properties, its licensees, the 28 member clubs, players, coaches and retailers all working together to deliver fans a piece of the excitement of the game. Douglas Quinn, senior manager of sales and promotion states, "It's quite simple, our function is to facilitate retailers' efforts in developing successful NFL programs by contacting licensees to secure products, aiding in the merchandising of the Team shop presentations and designing unique promotions for each retailer to generate retail traffic, setting them apart from competition."

In-store player appearances are extremely successful because fans have a chance to meet and talk with their favorite players.

CARDS & COLLECTIBLES

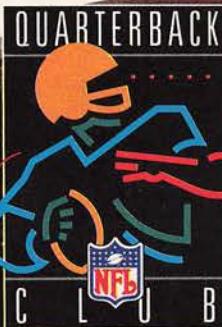
In recent years collectible items have taken center stage in the retail business. A prime example of this segment's growth is the trading card business. As trading cards have taken off lately, NFL



The AJD NFL Quarterback Club- Proper Attire Required.

Jim Kelly, Boomer Esiason, Randall Cunningham, Troy Aikman, Bernie Kosar, Warren Moon, Phil Simms, Bubby Brister, John Elway, Dan Marino, Mark Rypien, Chris Miller, Steve Young, Jeff Hostetler, Jim Harbaugh and Jim Everett.

AJD presents the NFL Quarterback Club Collection, featuring the premier quarterbacks in the National Football League. Quality wool or twill caps with a directly embroidered name, number and team emblem on the front and player name, number and official NFL Quarterback Club logo on the back. Whether it's solid colors or Zubaz prints, AJD makes it easy to join the NFL's most exclusive club.



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NFL PROPERTIES

Football cards have also increased in popularity. In fact, Football trading cards are second only to baseball cards and pull in almost 20 percent of the trading card business.

In 1991 nine companies produced 19 major football card sets, which have also changed drastically in appearance. From the original design on soft cardboard with one dull photo, today's cards feature glossy four-color photographs and fancy embossing—some even feature holographic images. The newest player on the football trading card field is NFL Gameday. The 500-card collection will contain the National Football League's most well-known veterans and 1992's up-and-coming rookies.

One of NFL Properties' latest endeavors is player representation. This proposition has quickly grown, and NFL Properties now represents some 700 NFL players with new signings adding more every day.

The NFL Quarterback Club is one of the NFL's newest marketing programs, which employs the popularity of the NFL's star quarterbacks. NFL Properties has been hired by 11 of the top quarterbacks in the league to manage their licensing program. "This program will most definitely reinvigorate the player-identified merchandise market, surpassing all previous player licensing efforts because of the caliber of the quarterbacks and licensing efforts," Vuono asserts. The most exciting new venture for the QB Club is the launch of the QBC line of sportswear. QBC is a brand of casual clothes that is designed and partially owned by the Club. The line is unique in that there is no team or player identification on the product, only the QBC logo. The line is positioned to compete with brands like Polo, Dockers and Tommy Hilfiger.

One company involved with the Quarterback Club is AJD, a leading manufacturer of sport caps. AJD is a longtime NFL licensee and has developed an NFL Quarterback Club Collection of caps that will feature an embroidered name, number and team emblem on the front.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Television and special events are other areas of the NFL that fall under the direction of NFL Properties. Leading the way in this endeavor is the NFL Experience, which debuted last year at Super Bowl XXVI in Minneapolis,

Minnesota. This "NFL Theme Park" features exhibits, interactive activities, live entertainment and an NFL sports store. Also debuting last year was Super Bowl Saturday Night. This NFL award and entertainment special was hosted by Burt Reynolds and aired live on TNT the night before the Super Bowl.

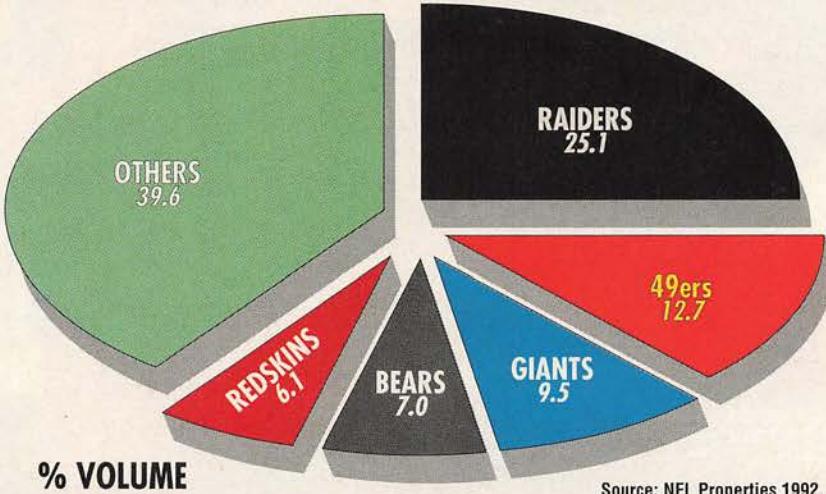
In addition to the Super Bowl Saturday Night show, NFL Properties also produces a handful of other televised events. The NFL Quarterback Challenge includes the finest quarterbacks in a competition that tests their passing ability. Held last year on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, the show was the highest rated NBC Sportsworld

show of the summer of 1991. NFL Properties also produces the NFL Fastest Man, Super Bowl Billiards Championship and the Pro Bowl Beach Challenge. Don Garber, vice president of special events, indicates new ideas and events are under continuous development.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

NFL Properties' other major role is promotional licensing, the development and sales of corporate sponsorships and publishing projects designed to promote and enhance the image of the NFL. Jim Schwebel, vice president

1991 TEAM SALES TREND ANALYSIS-THROUGH FEB. 1992



Source: NFL Properties 1992



NFL PHOTOS

For the ultimate NFL fan, the avenues of displaying team loyalty are almost endless.



P R O F I L E S



JIM HARBAUGH ON HELMETS, UNIFORMS AND THE HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II.

If he didn't have to wear a helmet, he wouldn't.

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That includes the clothes he wears on the field. NFL

Pro Line.TM Authentic NFL clothing from coaches'

jackets, shirts and hats to players'

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of the people who set the standards in the NFL.

People like Jim Harbaugh.



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The NFL brings you even closer to the game's biggest stars with Pro Line Profiles.TM The most up-close-and-personal trading cards ever produced.

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NFL PROPERTIES

of marketing and sales, who oversees three areas explains: "Joining forces with major corporations and publishing firms to design creative and profitable programs complements the role of our retail licensing group. We have been extremely successful at extending the NFL experience beyond our own licensed products, to enhance the products and services of companies around the world."

NFL Properties has developed a sponsorship roster that enables more than 80 leading corporations to tie into the success of the NFL. Through research, program development and proactive sales efforts, this promotion has become the envy of the sports licensing industry.

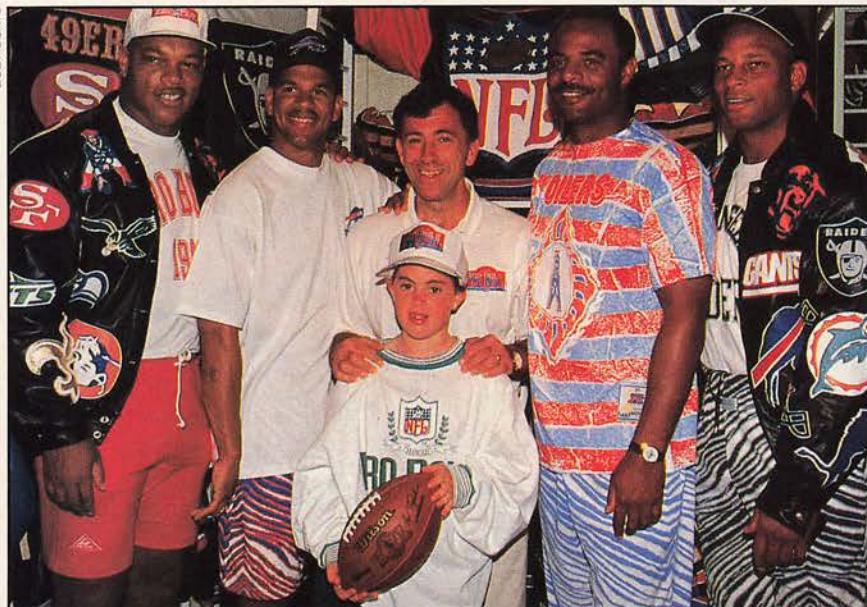
Brian Hughes, senior director of marketing describes the NFL Properties approach to corporate sponsorships: "We capture the incredible power and appeal of the NFL, its teams and players to create a program that meets the specific corporate and brand objectives of the sponsor." Hughes explains, "In the current economic and competitive environment, corporations are looking beyond the mere use of logos and trademarks and expect awareness and volume-building programs with quantifiable results from their sports association.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFL PHOTOS



Fan support can border on the extreme.

BOB ROSATO



NFL Properties has a great relationship and works very closely with the players. NFL Properties President John Bello and his daughter Lindsey, stand between Greg Townsend and Andre Reed (left) and Warren Moon and Ronnie Lott (right).

ation. We are able to deliver NFL promotions and special events that meet and often exceed these objectives."

Packaged goods companies such as Lever Brothers, Clorox and General Foods participate in an NFL free-standing insert themed Fun, Food and American Favorites. Delivered in Sunday newspapers each October to nearly 50 million households, this insert is managed and sold by NFLP, and offers savings on sponsor's brands, discounts on NFL merchandise and supports FACT (Football & Academics Championship Team), an NFL in-school educational program.

Delta Airlines recently became the official airline of the National Football League, and of three of its most important events—the Super Bowl, the Pro Bowl and the American Bowls in London and Berlin. Among the activities Delta has planned is a program to offer its frequent flyers select NFL merchandise and memorabilia, including autographed jerseys, helmets, limited edition prints and trading card sets. In addition, Delta's in-flight service will present Inside the NFL, the HBO/NFL Films-produced highlight show of each week's games. Delta will also launch a series of programs in key NFL markets using radio, stadium signage and scoreboard advertising to promote travel on Delta.

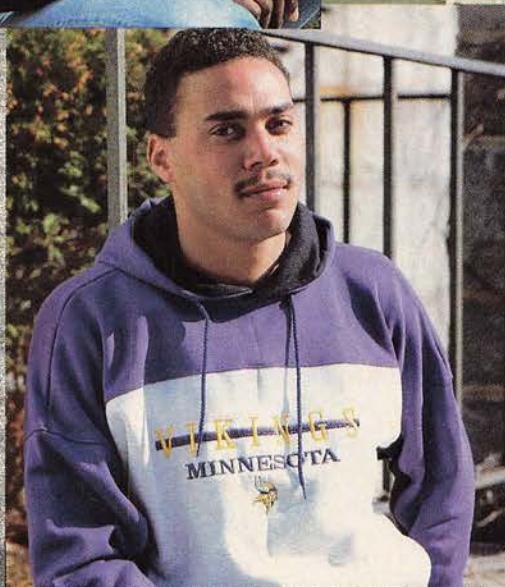
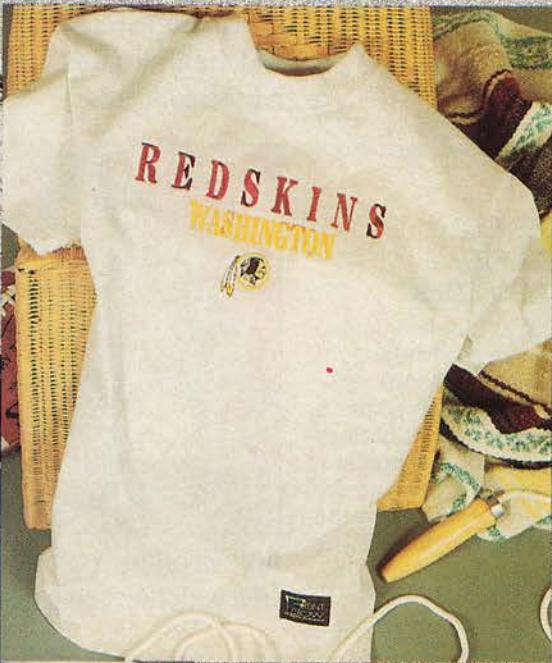
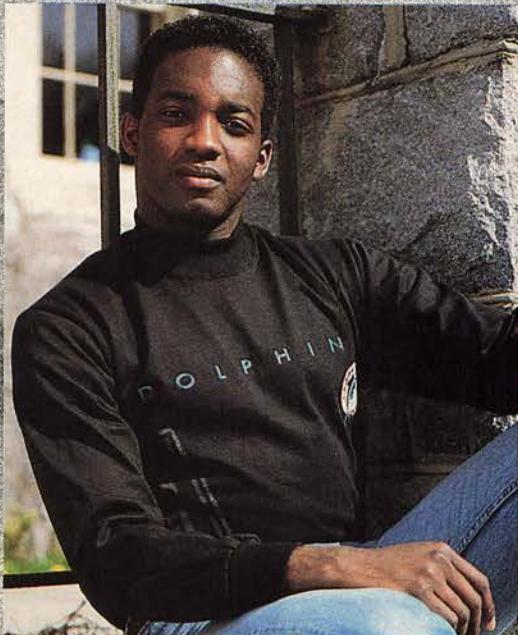
Through NFL Properties, Gatorade has promoted its official sports beverage status through the high-impact NFL sideline presence of Gatorade cups and coolers and point-of-sale promotions. In 1992 Gatorade will sponsor the reintroduction of Punt, Pass & Kick, one of the NFL's most popular special events.

Eastman Kodak utilizes the marketing power of the NFL to build sales of its film and related products on a worldwide basis. Domestically, Kodak has created Kodak/NFL poster day at NFL stadiums across the country where ticket holders receive a free team or action poster when they attend a designated home game. Through newspaper free-standing inserts and retail promotions, Kodak offers the high-quality team posters to consumers as a premium with the purchase of film. As a worldwide sponsor, Kodak also sponsors the American Bowl, and as with many sponsors, Kodak supports its NFL involvement with network in-game advertising buys.

The remaining list of NFL Corporate

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The Front Row Collection — where sports and fashion mix.

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NFL PROPERTIES

Sponsors reads like a Who's Who of top marketers: American Express, Avis, Coca-Cola, Canon, GTE, Mobil, General Mills, Miller Brewing Co. and many other worldwide category leaders. The advertising, promotional activity and merchandising created by their marketing programs creates literally billions of impressions promoting the NFL, its clubs and players. Brian Hughes points out that while sponsorship revenue is an important objective, there are other benefits derived from such association: "By keeping the NFL "top of mind" among fans and continuing to enhance the game's image, we contribute to greater stadium attendance, stronger TV viewership of games and sales of our licensed products."

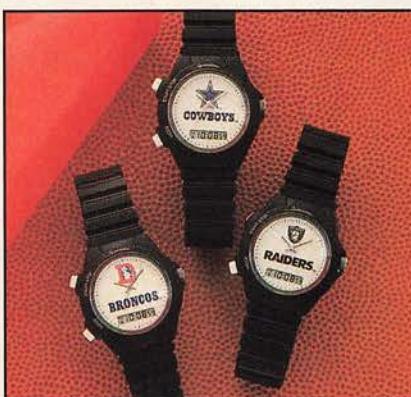
NFL PROPERTIES' PUBLISHING AND CREATIVE SERVICES

The NFL Properties' publishing and creative services department is responsible for creating, publishing and licensing a broad range of NFL-themed printed material from books and magazines to premium products such as posters, calendars, booklets and trading cards. Last year, magazines produced by the publishing division included the Super Bowl XXVII game program, Game Day, the in-stadium program, and Team NFL,

NFL PHOTOS



NFL trading cards are becoming a rage with fans.



Bulova offers a complete line of NFL watches and clocks.

the NFL's own preseason annual. The publishing group also creates customized printed pieces for NFLP's sponsors. A good example is the Miller Light handbook. Now in its 10th year, the handbook has become the most widely distributed sports "publication" in the country—it will promote the NFL and its 28 member clubs to 15 million fans nationwide.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Returning something to the community and the fan has always been important to the NFL. A large portion of NFL Properties proceeds fund NFL Charities. Some \$13 million have been presented to more than 100 organizations since 1973.

John Bello explains, "In 1991, NFL Properties, in cooperation with its sponsors, spent \$3 million funding educational programs like the Pro-Set FACT [Football and Academics Championship Team] program, clinic and scholarship awards." The FACT program uses football cards as classroom learning tools. The program eventually will reach approximately 2,000 schools and 300,000 children. Teachers receive an instructional guide, student activity sheets, an oversize interactive poster as well as a take-home package to allow parents to become involved. Each month teachers distribute the cards with interactive educational questions that deal with themes such as Stay in Shape, Stay off Drugs, Stay in Tune (environment), Stay Healthy (eat smart), Stay True to Yourself (be your best) and Stay in School.

Another important NFL education program is Project PASS (Promoting Academic Skill and Studies). Sponsored by GTE, PASS is a computer-based curriculum enhancement for seventh graders that uses NFL players and football as vehicles for teaching Math and Science. In addition, there are scholarships and grants as well as Stay in School and substance abuse programs which round out NFLP's community efforts.

With the impressive growth of NFL football at home and abroad, and the successful track record of NFL Properties, expectations are high. As for the immediate future, the one thing to expect from the people at NFL Properties is the unexpected. Whatever the future holds, it will be innovative. ★

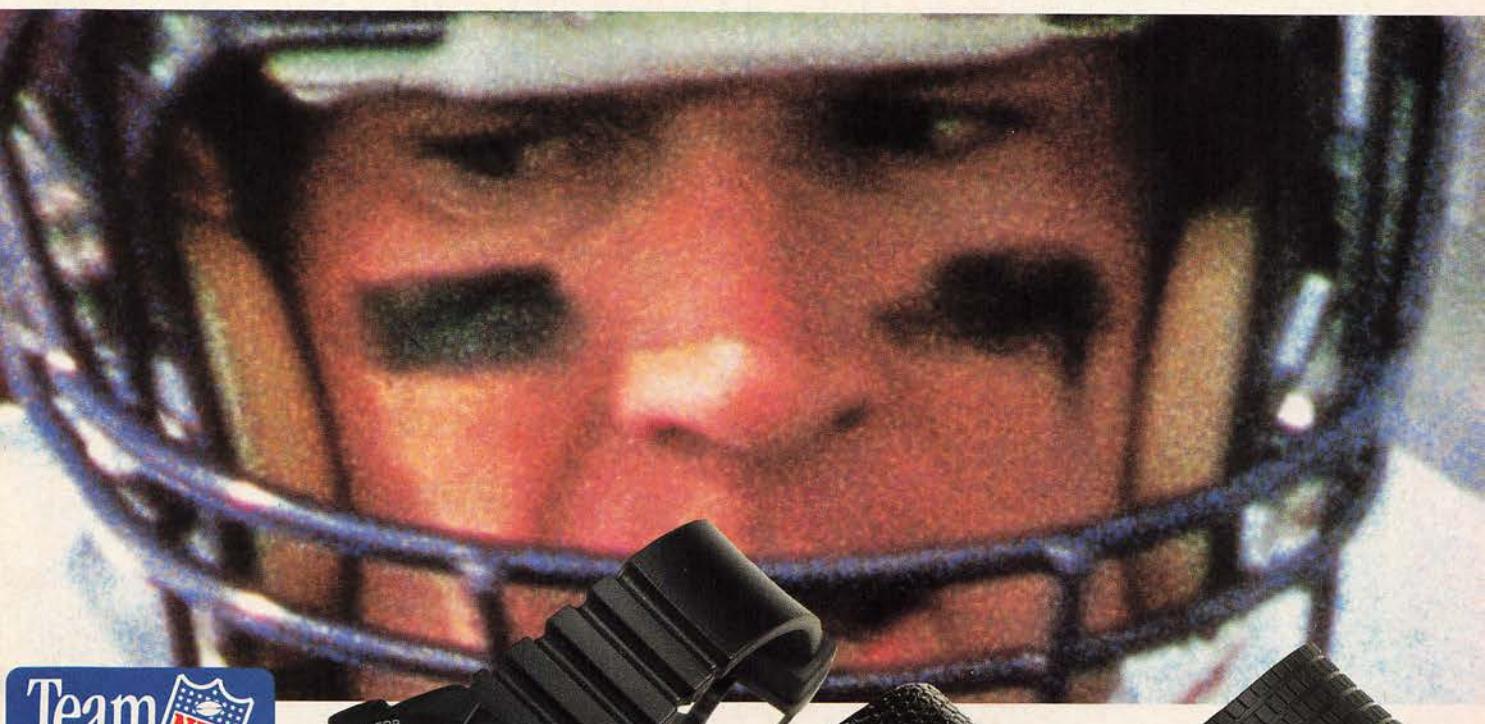
PAUL SPINELLI/NFL PHOTOS



Special events such as the NFL Fastest Man Competition and the NFL Quarterback Challenge provide the excitement and thrill of the game on a different field.

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The lady at the front desk of the World Gate Health Center says she isn't sure if Jeff Lageman has arrived for his morning workout. This is surprising news. See, we assume that Lageman's very presence would have the whole place shaking, that he'd be screaming obscenities as he pumped his iron, that he'd be snapping towels, bumping into people just for kicks, that he'd, you know, be making this gym a living exercise hell for all those pudgy little suburban Washingtonians doing their morning aerobics before heading to their jobs at the Labor Department. We expect the lady at the front desk to say, "Jeff Lageman? Oh, he's here all right. He's downstairs, tearing the place apart. The police are on their way."

Instead, the lady does some quick checking and learns that Lageman has not yet arrived. And then she says: "That Jeff, he's so quiet. Quiet as a tree. He does his work, and then he goes home."

What? Jeff Lageman? Quiet as a tree? Jeff Lageman of the New York Jets? *That* Jeff Lageman? *Does his work, and then he goes home.* Lageman? The guy who promised to shave his head last year if the Jets made the playoffs? The guy who created all those screaming headlines in the New York tabloids last year when he proclaimed the Jets a better team than the sainted Giants? *That* Jeff Lageman?

"Yes, that Jeff Lageman," says the lady. "He should be here soon. He usually arrives about now." And so he does, and right on time, but with no fanfare, no towel-waving, no groupies and no time to waste. The man is here to work out, not to work the crowd, and he is here to pump the iron, not to press the flesh. It seems rather strange, this big, brawny linebacker doing his pre-training-camp work at this fancy-schmancy gym, complete with child-care center and juice bar, but he doesn't seem to mind the posh trappings. "The people who work out here don't put up serious weight," he sniffs, "but they're serious about their workouts. And I guess that's the important thing."

Lageman speaks with a laid-back air and with just a teensy-weensy bit of Virginia drawl. Fact is, he is so laid-back at this moment, so reserved, so in control, that he looks more like one of those D.C. think-tankers than an NFL lineman. Oh, he's a big man, his 266 pounds bundled nicely inside his 6-foot-5-inch frame, but at this moment he's just some great, big 24-year-old

kid who's killing some time at the gym.

"I'm no big deal when I'm back home in Virginia," he says. "Not like in New York. Down here, I'm just one of the guys."

He is shown a picture from the *New York Post*, a picture of him screaming something and waving his Jets helmet with his right hand, doing all this to charge up the fans. The caption reads: "WILD AND CRAZY GUY."

down to the ponytail and the jeans with more holes in them than the Tampa Bay secondary. But he is no beast. Party animal, yes. Beast, no. There is a difference.

"People sometimes try to push all the buttons and get you going, but you just decline," he says. "There are guys who'd just love to get into a fight with a pro football player. Maybe it turns them on; I don't know. But you can't

QUIET RIOT

BENEATH THE RAGE OF JET JEFF LAGEMAN,
THERE'S A CALM BY STEVE BUCKLEY

"People think I'm like that all the time," he says. "Sometimes I meet people, and they just kind of look at me, like I'm going to start swinging from the chandelier or something. They expect me to be some beast, with hair down to my ass, every other word an obscenity, and they expect me to be spitting on the floor. I'm sure some of them are disappointed when I'm not that way because they have this grandiose picture of what they think I'm all about."

Well, that pretty much is what Jeff Lageman is all about, this beast-who-spits-on-the-floor thing. But the point Lageman is attempting to make is that the beast wears a green-and-white uniform and tap-dances on the faces of opposing quarterbacks; off the field, he is every bit the party animal, right

accommodate them. You do, you get into trouble."

But there was one time when the beast nearly escaped, when the beast nearly climbed over the walls of the football stadium and terrorized the countryside. It happened in 1989, shortly after the onetime University of Virginia star was selected in the first round of the NFL draft by the Jets. He was wide-eyed then, excited as hell about making the big money in the NFL, and one of the first things he did was head out and buy himself a brand new Ford Bronco. And then he drove from his folks' home in Great Falls, Va., near Dulles Airport, to Charlottesville so that he could show his old buddies from college his new NFL wheels.

He took the gang to a Pizza Hut.



"[People] just kind of look at me, like I'm going to start swinging from the chandelier or something. They expect me to be some beast, with hair down to my ass, every other word an obscenity.... I'm sure some of them are disappointed when I'm not that way."

Had a hell of a time. And while all this was happening, somebody was having a hell of a time with Lageman's Bronco; when Lageman returned, a window had been smashed, and a stereo and several hundred dollars worth of new athletic equipment were gone.

Lageman did the right thing, contacting the local police and reporting the crime. At that point, he was willing to let the system take care of things. What else could he do? But Lageman had once been a bouncer at a not-so-spiffy Charlottesville nightclub, and we are telling you right here and now that it was not one of those college-boy places, not at all, and somebody from the club passed Lageman some news about the crime. Turns out the guy who broke into the Bronco was somebody Lageman knew from the club. Armed with this information, Lageman allowed the beast—the one you've seen on television during Jets games—to escape from the green-and-white uniform.

"I became *this* guy," Lageman says, holding up the picture from the *Post* again. "I worked for four years to get drafted by an NFL team, and I looked at that Bronco as a symbol of all the sacrifices I had made. And now some-

body—somebody I knew—had broken into it, and in broad daylight. The thing is, I had seen the guy in the parking lot before I went into the pizza place, but I didn't put two and two together and realize he was going to rip me off."

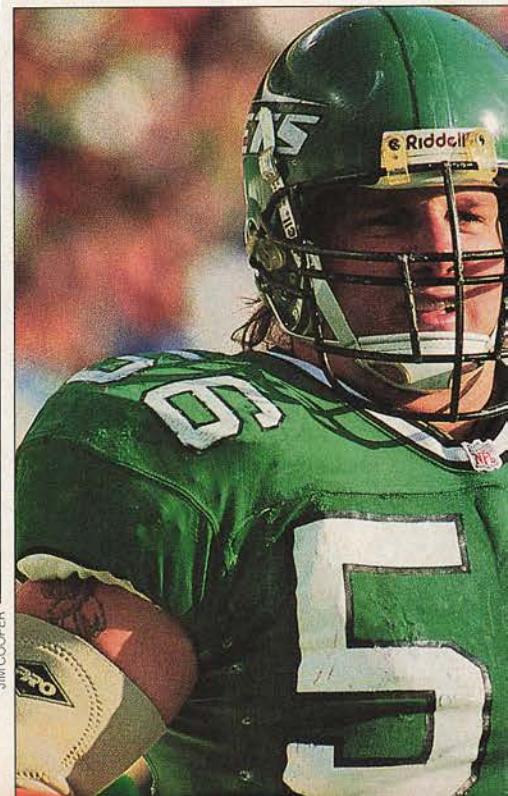
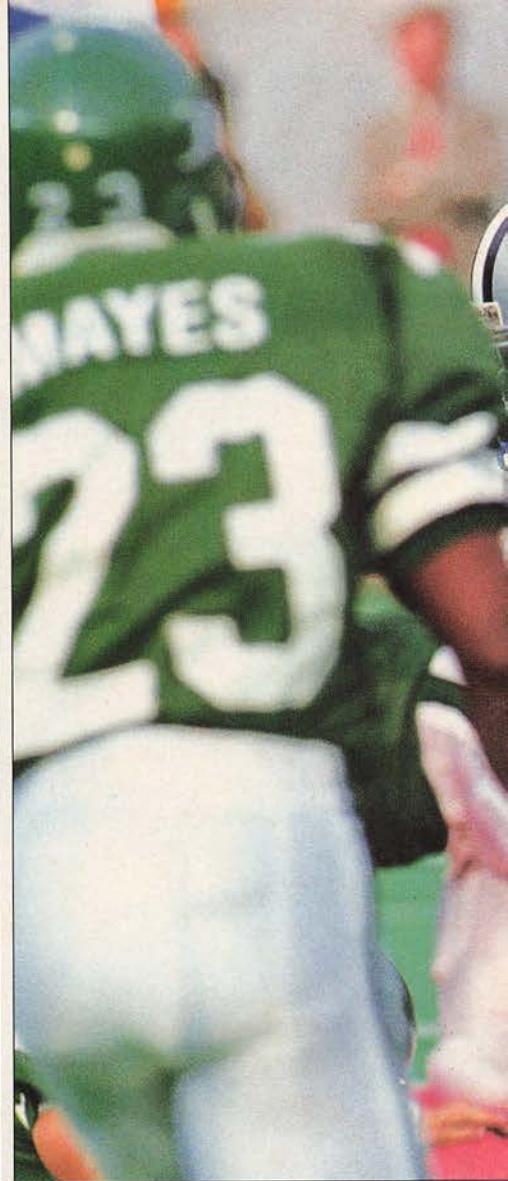
For nearly three days, Lageman was both beast and vigilante, aiming his Bronco in every corner of Charlottesville in search of the man who had violated the payoff for all that sweat. He would find this man, absolutely, and he would hurt him, hurt him good. He had a plan: "I was going to break his fingers. I was going to break every finger he had, for stealing from me. And I was going to enjoy it."

But at some point on the third day of this silly search for a petty thief, Lageman pulled his Bronco over to the side of the road and had a little chat with himself. He hadn't even played a game in the NFL yet, hadn't even been to training camp, and—and what? Was he going to beat up on some guy, cause a big stink, get himself into a jam that might sink his NFL career before it was even launched? Well?

"I suddenly realized how crazy I was being," he says. "I realized I wasn't going to accomplish anything by bruising the guy. All I was going to do was land myself in a lot of trouble. So after three days of driving around looking for the guy, it was like, the guy isn't worth it. This is stupid. I'm stupid. I'm going to play in the NFL, and I'm not going to let some scum like that get in my way."

Insurance paid for the stereo and the athletic equipment. And Lageman, cooled off by now, the beast back in its cage, drove his repaired Bronco up to New York. And he has become one dynamite football player. Here, in the NFL, Lageman can allow the beast to roam at will, and here, in the NFL, the beast sees only helmeted thieves who have broken into his Bronco. And he has found them. Lageman's 10 quarterback sacks led the Jets last year, placing him tied for sixth in the American Football Conference in that category, and in Week 9 he was the AFC's Defensive Player of the Week. And he made one of the biggest plays of the season when he tackled New England Patriot Jon Vaughn on the New York

Inside Lageman, there's a wild beast looking for some prey to munch. Fortunately, the linebacker saves that side of himself for the opposing offense. The rest of the time, he's a regular guy. Almost.



JIM COOPER



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

"There are guys who'd just love to get into a fight with a pro football player. Maybe it turns them on."

one-yard line with :00 showing on the clock. Final score: Jets 28, Patriots 21.

And though he remains a Virginia boy at heart, hanging out with his old buddy Danny Breeden and bass fishin' at his beloved Lake Anna, Jeff Lageman, keeper of the beast, flat out loves New York. No, check that; he loves the New York Jets, and he loves their fans. And while he loves that great Jet of yore, Joe Namath, be advised that there will never, ever be a Broadway Jeff Lageman. "No, that's not me," he says. "You're not going to see me doing all the Manhattan stuff. I hate opera. I hate plays. I hate Mozart, Bach, all that stuff. I'm not the kind of guy who's going to get all dressed up to go see 'Phantom of the Opera,' or ballet, or all that other stuff. Sorry, pal. Can't do it. Give me a ticket to something else, OK?"

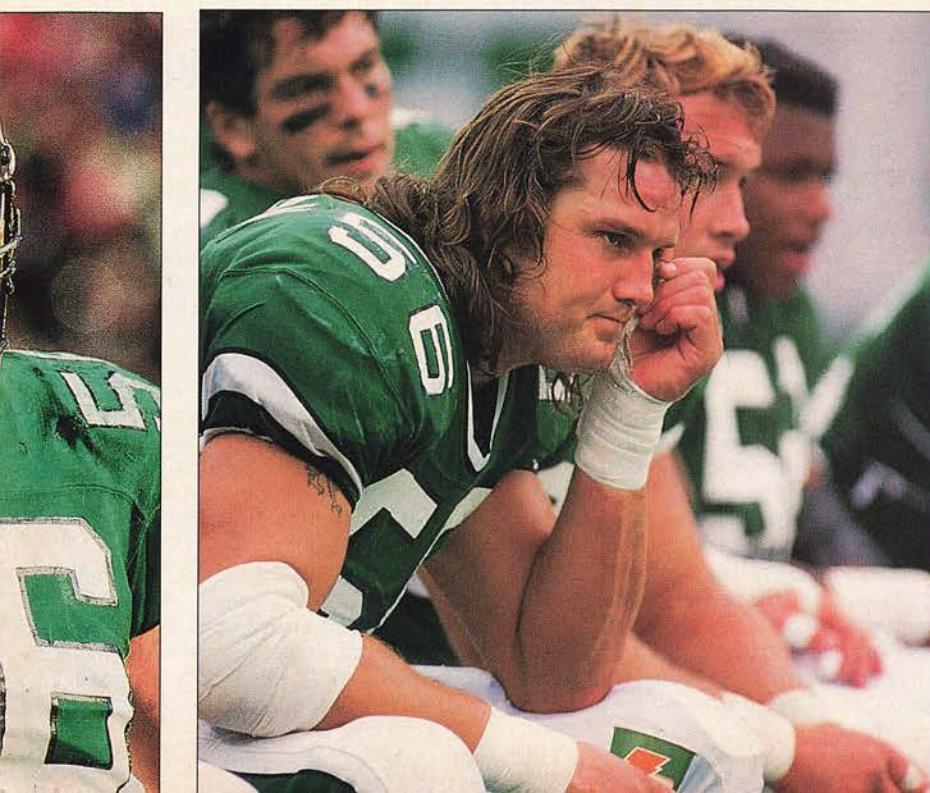
Yeah, give him a ticket to the Super Bowl. Or, first things being first, give him a ticket to football supremacy in New York, for this means a lot to Lageman—you know, seeing a day when the Jets, and not the Giants, are, as Ed Sullivan would have said, the toast of the town.

"My first year here, I actually heard guys say, 'We'll never be No. 1 in this town,'" Lageman says. "They would actually sit there and say that. Right in the locker room. And I say that guys who feel that way don't belong here. Pro football is such an emotional sport, and if you don't have the emotions to go out there and try to win the fans over, then you should be somewhere else, man."

"Like, we'll never be No. 1 in this town? That's ignorant, man, that's what that is. We don't have any problems with this town that winning can't solve. And we will win, and we will be No. 1. And we'll be the team in New York, just like when Boozer and Maynard and, of course, Joe were here."★

PETER TRAVERS

Steve Buckley is a Boston-based free-lance writer.



There is a two-part story that explains Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman. And it climaxed four years ago in his first NFL practice with the Lions. During his celebrated Ohio State career, Spielman was a two-time All-American and only the second linebacker ever to win the Lombardi Award. Still, on draft day in 1988, there were whispers that the laughingstock Lions had reached too high when they made Spielman the second player taken in the second round of the draft.

After all, Spielman stands only 6 feet high. He's built like a washing machine. His 4.83-second collegiate time in the 40-yard dash, football's famous yardstick for speed, was considered mediocre.

But the Lions liked his well-known intensity, the disciplined approach he learned from being a coach's son, and

Spielman was more than ready to prove himself—he was like a coiled spring waiting to explode. He won a pad-snapping, head-on collision with a rookie fullback from Appalachian State. He slammed a rookie running back from Wayne State to the turf. He forced another ball carrier to fumble. Then he stuffed a running back on a draw play and screamed: "Let's go! Right now!"

more so—than it was when he joined the NFL.

Though his athleticism is often underestimated, Spielman's white-hot need to win, dominate, succeed is still the trait that defines him and lifts him above other NFL players—which is saying something, considering pro football is a world where everyone gets paid to be violent, strong and ultratough.

LION HEARTED

the raft of stories detailing his extremism in college: the time he broke a window at Ohio State so that he could get into the gym to lift weights; the brawl he started during the coin toss of a big game against LSU; the way he dressed down college teammates who he thought weren't practicing hard enough.

He prided himself on beating Buckeyes head coach Earle Bruce to the stadium film room each day, even though it meant getting there by 6 a.m.

But the first clue that Spielman was everything the Lions hoped for came not long after he showed up for weightlifting workouts in Detroit. Around the Silverdome, Spielman's sessions with his older brother, Rick, a free-agent linebacker hopeful, came to be known as The Spielman Experience—a term then-Lions defensive tackle Eric Williams coined after agreeing to lift with the Spielmans one day.

The pace was so wrenching that Williams ran to the bathroom to throw up.

"Eric," Chris said from the other side of the stall door, "you all right?"

"Yeah, yeah," Williams croaked.

"Well, hurry up. It's your set, and you're holding us up."

Whatever doubts remained were allayed on the first day of training camp.

DETROIT LINEBACKER CHRIS SPIELMAN'S
NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR VICTORY

BY JOHNETTE HOWARD

Wayne Fontes, then the Lions defensive coordinator, laughed and said: "Uh, Chris? We've still got six weeks before we start."

A lot has changed since then, but not in any of the respects mentioned. Today, Chris Spielman no longer needs to prove himself to the NFL. In just four seasons, he's already been to the Pro Bowl three times. He's been a Lions starter at inside linebacker from the moment he arrived. As a rookie, he set the team single-season record for tackles, and he has led the team in that department every year since—including 1990, when he missed four games with a bum shoulder.

But success hasn't sated Spielman. His hell-bent attitude toward the game remains as extreme—perhaps even

"He plays every play like it's his last," Fontes says fondly.

"Wayne and me have an interesting relationship—he doesn't say much to me," Spielman says. "He knows I'll do what I'm supposed to do. If I'm not good at something, I'll triple up my work until I am."

The results are striking. Even on this ascendant Detroit Lions club—a team that showed a steel will last season in the wake of Mike Utley's tragic paralysis and the loss of five other starters by playoff time—Spielman has been an acknowledged leader almost from the moment he walked in the door.

He hit town driving a truck, wearing flannel shirts with the sleeves ripped off and jeans whose back pockets invariably had worn circles where he stowed his cans of snuff. (Not long after the weight-room experience, Eric Williams



**"If...someone came
knocking on my door in
the middle of the night
and said, 'OK, Chris,
Tampa is lining up in
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with the fullback
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I gotta go '38-8-
brace'—just like that."**

started an apocryphal training-camp story that the Spielman brothers shot squirrels and cooked them in their room to save per-diem money. Soon it started turning up in out-of-town articles as fact.)

During the season, Spielman also often grows a Fu Manchu. His current workout partners are a couple of Lions nicknamed Animal (defensive lineman Marc Spindler) and Diesel (offensive lineman Ken Dallafior). As in his college days, Spielman is still the first player in the door each morning and among the last to leave each day.

"Each week, I have to prepare myself, so, when I go to bed, if all of a sudden someone came knocking on my door in the middle of the night and said, 'OK, Chris, Tampa is lining up in weak-back formation with the fullback cheating up. What play are they running? I gotta go '38-8-brace'—just like that," Spielman says, snapping his fingers. "I have to know the defenses; I have to be able to make the calls at the line; I have to be able to recognize tendencies. And if I don't have that feeling yet, then I'm not ready to play."

Even when he got engaged to his high school sweetheart, Stefanie Belcher, shortly after being drafted by Detroit, there was one football-inspired stipulation: Chris said they couldn't get married on July 1, the day Stefanie initially wanted, because "it was too close to training camp."

He has no trouble admitting that football is his magnificent obsession. It was the same for him at Ohio State, and at Massillon High in Ohio, and youth football before that....

Spielman's dad, Sonny, was a long-time high school coach at such Ohio football hotbeds as Timken and McKinley Highs in Canton, and at arch-rival Washington High in nearby Massillon. Until Chris was 15, he and his family lived just three blocks from the Pro Football Hall of Fame. As a kid, Chris was such a regular that the guards soon let him in for free.

Once inside, Spielman would sit and watch videos highlighting the NFL's greatest hits, or bloopers, or all-time stars, again and again. He would pore over displays of leather helmets with no face masks, the old uniforms, the photos of packed stands, and feel as if he were searching heaven. He once told a reporter that as a kid he'd even memorized Grantland Rice's famous words from 1924 about Notre Dame's Four Horsemen, then proved so by reciting them:

"Outlined against the blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore, they are known as Famine, Pestilence, Destruction and Death...."

When the Lions traveled to Canton last summer to play in the NFL's annual Hall of Fame game, Spielman got to play in the same stadium in which his dad's teams once played. The occasion brought back a well of memories for both of them.

Chris told a story about the way he'd grab a football, then stuff hot dogs in his pant pockets when he was 9 years old so that the family dog would chase him around the back yard. "I was the running back, and the dog was the tackler," Spielman said, laughing. Sonny regaled reporters with a story about the time when Chris was 5, and Chris' grandmother went into the family's basement chirping her grandson's name until—*blam!*—Chris flattened her like a kamikaze special-teams player.

"He totaled her out," Sonny said. "Came in with a forearm—perfect form, great follow-through. He knocked her on her butt."

Was she OK?

"Oh, yeah. She's still living," Chris said.

Think there are any other NFL players who got their starts with a wham-bam-thank-you-Gram hit?

Think any others began linebacker technique drills at age 6?

"I'd take the regular-size football, and I'd have him run cuts," Sonny said. "He'd plant the outside foot and make the nice curl cut....I'd have him break down like a linebacker—feet parallel, hips dropped, shoulders square, shuffle to the left, shuffle to the right. He never stumbled."

By his senior season in high school, Spielman was a highly coveted star who was also recruited as a fullback. He was one of six high school athletes featured on the front of a Wheaties box. At Ohio State, he started every game. Until he joined the Lions, he had never played for a losing team, and he had never missed a practice until he was injured in the pros.

Success hasn't affected Spielman. His hell-bent attitude toward football remains intact.

MICHAEL PONZINI



TOM DIPACE



To this day, he says with pride, he has never even been helped off the field, no matter how much pain he's been in.

Even when he's not playing, everything he does is geared toward game days. "My wife thinks I need a hobby," Spielman says. "But my thing is football. My hobby in the off-season is to get ready for the in-season. Period. Nothing else. I don't want nothing else. If I'm even playing tennis or something, I'm thinking football: 'OK, this tennis is good for my lateral quickness, my stops.' I don't think, 'Well, I'm really going to work on my forehand today.' It's always football: 'I'll work on my crossover steps too.' If I'm playing Nintendo, it's: 'This is good for my hand-eye coordination.' Honestly, this stuff all runs through my mind."

Spielman admits that there have been times in his career when he's questioned his obsession with football. He agrees that high-level football requires men to ask themselves to do unreasonable things. He says the word "contact" is too euphemistic to describe what really goes on—"collisions" is more like it.

He says he even thought he'd come to peace with himself and with how much the game takes out of him until last year, when Utley was carried off on a stretcher, soon to be told he would never walk again.

Getting hurt? Yeah, I think about it," Spielman says. "A lot of this came up again when Mike got hurt. People said, 'Are you ever scared?' I said, 'You're not scared, but I think you condition your mind so that you understand the risk of playing football.' And you've got to be able to deal with that risk. You understand the consequences, that 10 or 15 years down the road, there's going to be a lot of pain in your life. I don't always like it, but that's part of the deal. I mean, people have even died on the field."

Spielman agrees that television—the only way most people ever get to know football—mutes the game's raw fury, its profaneness. When you're at home, or even in a faraway seat at the stadium, all that floats back to you is the chatter of pads, some unintelligible yelling, the five- or six-second snarl of motion on each play. Unless you've played in the NFL, you don't know the ferocious pain that shoots up the players' spines even when they get the best of a collision. You don't know how routinely just hitting the ground knocks the breath out of them. You can't imagine how the pain and fatigue multiplies during the 100 or more snaps of each Sunday game.

"The pain is so common that you almost become immune to it," says Spielman, who has played past NFL games with a broken rib, a ground-up shoulder that needed surgery, and a broken thumb that nobody knew about.

"I personally feel if there's nothing wrong with your legs—if you can run—then you gotta play. If you've got a surgery coming up, that's different. Otherwise, though, you have to take all the necessary means to play—and you can read between the lines on that last statement if you like, OK?"

What Spielman is implying, of course, is that taking painkilling shots on game days is reason-

able for an NFL player.

"Maybe it's an old-school mentality, but I'm not one of those guys that says, 'Aw, I can't play, man! I've got my career to worry about! I got to worry about that money coming in!'" Spielman says, spitting out the words. "That has nothing to do with it. It has to do with commitment, responsibility—to yourself, to your teammates, to your coaches, the people that are relying on you to play."

"Anything goes out there, and the mentality seems to be that it's not a penalty or a cheap shot unless you get caught. It's vicious."

Spielman says there's a simple reason that football players demand each other to be so driven: Pain is something everyone experiences.

He tells stories of being bit, cut down at the knees, gouged in the eyes and kicked. Guys routinely throw up and spit, swear and bleed.

"I even had one guy who grabbed my crotch once," Spielman says.

"See, people know it's violent at this level, but people really don't understand how violent it is. Anything goes out there, and the mentality seems to be that it's not a penalty or a cheap shot unless you get caught. It's vicious."

Spielman admits that he loves a good teeth-rattling, spirit-cleansing, headache-inducing hit as much as the next guy. Against the Vikings once, Spielman and another Lion combined for a hit on Anthony Carter that sent Carter's helmet spinning 33 yards downfield.

But Spielman quickly adds that the joy of a good hit doesn't last too long.

Your helmet could be rolling down-field next.

Chris Spielman admits that football can cause a man to be obsessive, it can make him feel crazy, and the pounding can take a lifetime toll. "Yeah—and I'm still sitting here saying it's the greatest game in the world," Spielman says with a laugh.

"And it is."★

Johnette Howard is a sportswriter for the *Detroit Free Press*.

"B" HIVE

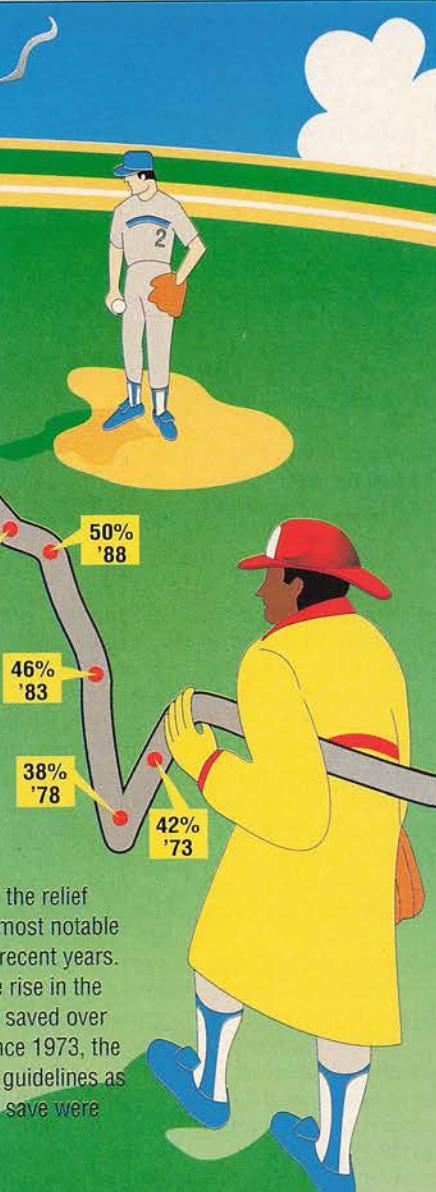
What effect has Plan B free agency had on the fortunes of NFL teams since its inception in 1989? The list below identifies the total number of Plan B free agents each team signed and lost from '89 to '91. To indicate what effect, if any, the signings have had, records from the '88 (the year preceding the arrival of Plan B) and '91 seasons are given.

	SIGNED	LOST	NET GAIN	'88	'91
PACKERS	56	18	+34	4-12	4-12
49ERS	20	6	+14	10-6	10-6
VIKINGS	27	14	+13	11-5	8-8
RAIDERS	26	13	+13	7-9	9-7
BRONCOS	23	10	+13	8-8	12-4
COWBOYS	25	12	+13	3-13	11-5
CHIEFS	36	24	+12	4-11-1	10-6
BROWNS	31	21	+10	10-6	6-10
REDSKINS	31	21	+10	7-9	14-2
CHARGERS	28	23	+5	6-10	4-12
LIONS	23	22	+1	4-12	12-4

	SIGNED	LOST	NET LOSS	'88	'91
PATRIOTS	20	35	-15	9-7	6-10
GIANTS	9	23	-14	10-6	8-8
COLTS	9	22	-13	9-7	1-15
BENGALS	3	15	-12	12-4	3-13
Saints	10	21	-11	10-6	11-5
RAMS	13	23	-10	10-6	3-13
EAGLES	9	18	-9	10-6	10-6
BUCANEERS	15	23	-8	5-11	3-13
BEARS	11	19	-8	12-4	11-5
FALCONS	21	29	-8	5-11	10-6
SEAHAWKS	15	19	-4	9-7	7-9
CARDINALS	20	24	-4	7-9	4-12
OILERS	22	26	-4	10-6	11-5
BILLS	10	14	-4	12-4	13-3
STEELERS	12	14	-2	5-11	7-9
DOLPHINS	25	27	-2	6-10	8-8
JETS	22	23	-1	8-7-1	8-8

SPELLING RELIEF

The increased role of the relief pitcher is one of the most notable trends in baseball in recent years. This graph charts the rise in the percentage of games saved over five-year intervals since 1973, the year that the present guidelines as to what constitutes a save were established.

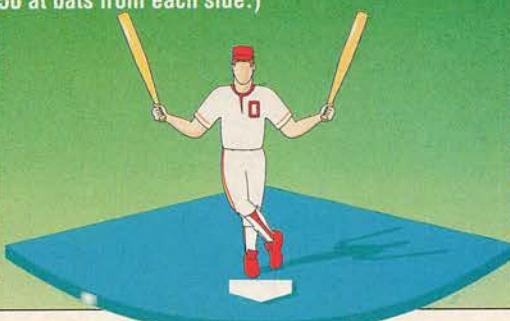


COMPILED BY JEFF WEINSTOCK AND STEVEN WEINSTOCK

SWITCH GLITCH

Switch-hitting is perhaps baseball's most difficult skill. This illustration identifies players who last season would have been better served to have hit from just one side of the plate. (R—'91 batting average from right side; L—'91 batting average from left side; D=differential. Minimum of 50 at bats from each side.)

	R	L	D
Garry Templeton	.344	.156	.188
Tony Phillips	.357	.256	.101
Ken Caminiti	.310	.213	.097
Spike Owen	.305	.210	.095
Joey Cora	.298	.222	.076
Manny Lee	.285	.209	.076



	L	R	D
Eddie Murray	.298	.217	.078
Orlando Merced	.285	.208	.077
Roberto Alomar	.316	.246	.070
Chico Walker	.278	.210	.068
Bernie Williams	.255	.202	.053

HOW TO BET COLLEGE FOOTBALL '92

THE ART OF "SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY"

Theories give order to an illogical world. Nowhere is this truer than with betting college football, where we attempt to come up with some system or magical potion to predict winners. Usually the uninformed, emotional bettor follows his heart. The "systems" bettor looks for the trend. Systems have no meaning over one or two years, but we have found that the erudite gambler will win with proven trends established over the long haul.

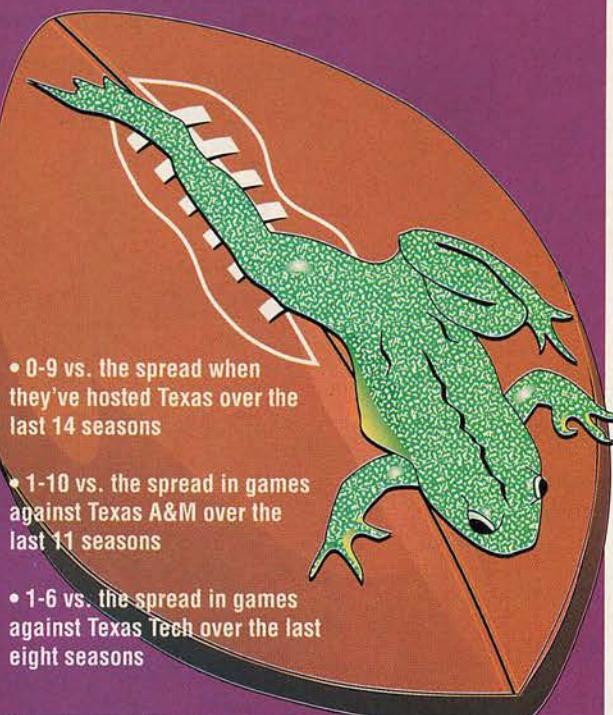
For example, for years we have extolled the virtues of betting Alabama and Michigan as underdogs. Last year, we were 0-2, as both the Crimson Tide and the Wolverines were blown out by Florida and Florida State, respectively. But considering that Alabama and Michigan are a combined 28-8 over the past two decades as underdogs, it's just too strong a trend to abandon after one bad season.

On the other hand, we recommended taking BYU at home. Quarterback Ty Detmer did not win the Heisman again, but he did well in Provo, going 6-0 straight up and 4-2 vs. the spread. Over the past 4½ seasons, Detmer and his Cougars have rewarded their supporters, going 20-6 against the betting line at home. Long-term trends such as these do work.

The following is a guide to betting the most profitable

THEY'RE NO PRINCES

The TCU Horned Frogs have had their share of difficulties against the spread in the Southwest Conference.



facing perennial powerhouse Miami.

TOUGH TURF

Certain teams can't play on certain surfaces. The Air Force, which plays on natural grass in Falcon stadium, can't get it done on artificial turf. Over the last 14 years, the Falcons are a miserable 9-25 vs. the spread on grass. Auburn offers another example of turf burn. The Tigers play their home games on grass. Since 1984, Auburn is 2-11-1 against the spread as a favorite on the fake stuff. Yale is even worse; over the past dozen years the Bulldogs are 1-11 vs. the points on artificial turf.

TOO MUCH FUN IN THE SUN

When visiting schools say "aloha" to Hawaii, they go for sun and fun and forget about the football game. Over the past six years, Hawaii is 15-3-1 vs. the spread as home underdogs.

DOG DAY AFTERNOONS

Memphis State is 15-5-1 vs. the spread as a double-digit underdog since 1985.

North Carolina State is 18-4 as a home underdog since 1981.

In the Vanderbilt-Kentucky series, the underdog has covered in 10 of the last 12 games.

Top Dog: Virginia is 20-8 as a road underdog since

trends in college football.

OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN THEORY

Whenever a Big Eight team plays Oklahoma, always bet against that Big Eight school the following week if it is a road underdog. Over the past 19 years, this trend has been a remarkable gold mine. Big Eight teams have gone 7-28 vs. the

points as road dogs after battling the Sooners. In particular, Kansas State has gone 1-10 vs. the spread, Oklahoma St., 0-6, and Colorado, 1-4. As it enters its 20th year, this system has won 80 percent of the time.

MIAMI WARM-UP

Since 1978, the Florida Seminoles are 9-1 against the spread the week before

B Y D A N N Y S H E R I D A N

SPORT ODDS

coach George Welsh took the helm of the Cavaliers in 1982.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Over the last 10 years, the Arizona Wildcats are 9-3 vs. the spread as road underdogs of 10 or more points.

In the Stanford-UCLA series, the road team is 8-2 vs. the spread since 1982.

The California Golden Bears hibernate as road favorites, going 2-9 vs. the spread since 1983.

In the LSU-Mississippi series, the road team is 8-0 against the betting line since 1984.

USC is a combined 1-11 vs. the spread at Washington and Washington State since 1975.

HOME SWEET HOME

In the Ohio State-Minnesota series, the home team is 14-2 vs. the spread over the last 16 years.

The Colorado Buffaloes are a perfect 8-0 vs. the spread when hosting Kansas State over the past 17 years.

Last year, we told you how tough Florida was at home. Well, the Gators chewed up their foes last season, going 5-1 vs. the spread. They are now 20-7 vs. the points in Gainesville over the past five years.

The Cadets of Army were 1-2 vs. the spread as home dogs last year but are still an incredible 14-3 as home doggies the last 9½ seasons.

Notre Dame is 27-13-1 against the points at home over the last eight years.

IN THE CONFERENCE

Georgia is no peach of a pick against ACC teams. The Bulldogs are 1-11 vs. the betting line when favored against ACC schools the past 15 years.

Wyoming is 3-11 vs. the spread in its last 14 WAC conference games.

Over the past 17 years, the Oregon Ducks, of the Pac-10, are 13-4 vs. the betting line in their first conference road game of the season.

In the Ivy, Harvard is 13-2 vs. the point spread against Brown since 1977, while Dartmouth is 7-0 vs. the line when visiting Brown since 1978.

LOCAL RIVALS

Iowa is 7-2 vs. the spread against

Good bet: Florida State against anyone the week before the Seminoles face Miami.

Iowa State since 1983.

Kansas is 6-2 vs. the spread when hosting Kansas State over the last 17 years.

Penn State is 2-11 against the spread in games played the week after facing the lightly regarded Temple Owls.

BIG TEN

Minnesota is 10-1 against the spread vs. Purdue since 1981.

Northwestern is 8-1-1 against the spread vs. Minnesota since 1981.

HORNED FROGGED

Texas is 9-0 vs. the spread when playing at TCU the past 14 seasons.

Texas A&M is 10-1 vs. the spread against TCU over the last 11 seasons.

Texas Tech is 6-1 vs. the spread

against TCU over the last eight seasons.

OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

The Hoosiers of Indiana are 8-2 vs. the spread in their season opener over the past 10 years.

The Houston Cougars are 2-11 vs. the betting line in their home finale.

KICKOFF CLASSIC

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Obviously, there are no guarantees when wagering, but following the above trends will certainly give you an edge.★



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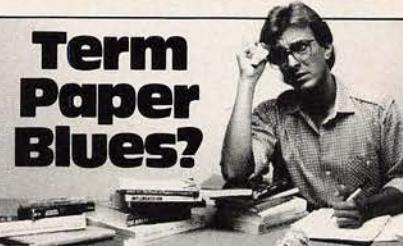
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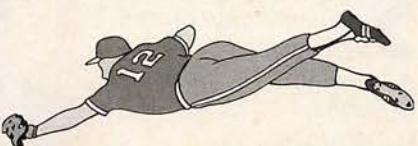
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12-13 correct: Sports genius
9-11 correct: Good Fan
6-8 correct: Working too hard
3-5 correct: To the showers
0-2 correct: Try knitting



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1 This wide receiver (pictured) led the Washington Redskins in receptions last season. Who is he?

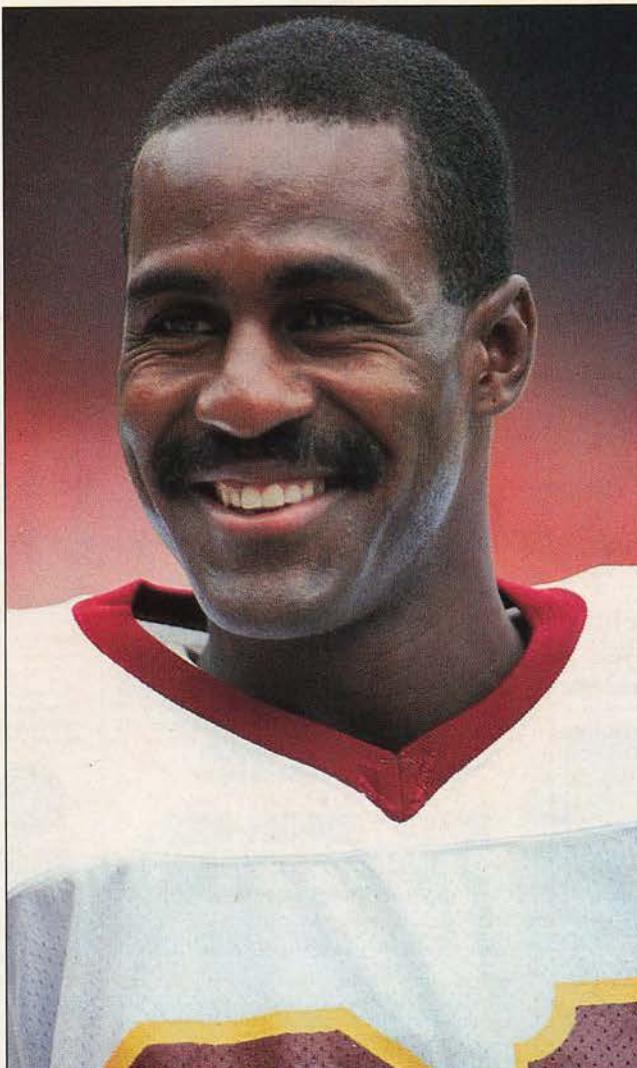
2 In 1991, which team led the NFL in sacks?
A. Denver
B. Houston
C. Philadelphia
D. New Orleans

3 Name the running back who led the Atlanta Falcons in rushing yards last year.

4 True or False: Carney Lansford of the Oakland A's played in the Little League World Series.

5 Which NHL team had the worst road record last season?

- A. Quebec
- B. Buffalo
- C. San Jose
- D. Toronto



AL MESSER-SCHMIDT

10 In 1956, whom did Floyd Patterson defeat to win the heavyweight title?

- A. Ingemar Johansson
- B. Archie Moore
- C. Ezzard Charles
- D. Sonny Liston

11 Name the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 in the Summer Olympics.

12 Who was the last golfer to win consecutive PGA Championships?

- A. Denny Shute
- B. Payne Stewart
- C. Gary Player
- D. Sam Snead

13 Who was the first NBA player to score 20,000 points in a career?

—William Ladson

STUMPER

Who is the only manager to win a World Series in both leagues?

AUGUST 1992
STUMPER ANSWER

Phil Hill ["Who was the first American driver to win the Formula One championship?"]

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ
ANSWERS

6 Mike Keenan has coached two NHL teams to the Stanley Cup finals. Name them.

7 Michael Jordan is one of seven NBA players to win consecutive MVP awards. Name the others.

8 Who was the first running back to rush for 1,000 yards with two

different teams?

- A. Eric Dickerson
- B. Mike Garrett
- C. Roger Craig
- D. Ottis Anderson

9 Match the NFL player with his first team.

- A. Wilber Marshall
- B. Everson Walls
- C. Tim Harris
- D. Andre Rison
- 1. Cowboys
- 2. Bears
- 3. Colts
- 4. Packers



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- 6. Philadelphia Flyers and Chicago Blackhawks
- 7. Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Bird, Moses Malone, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, and Bob Pettit
- 8. B
- 9. A
- 10. B
- 11. Nadia Comaneci
- 12. A
- 13. B

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(Warner Bros./Sire) 15470

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Under (A&M) 35208

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(Chrysalis) 20666

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Another Hand
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(Megaforce/Island) 25154

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